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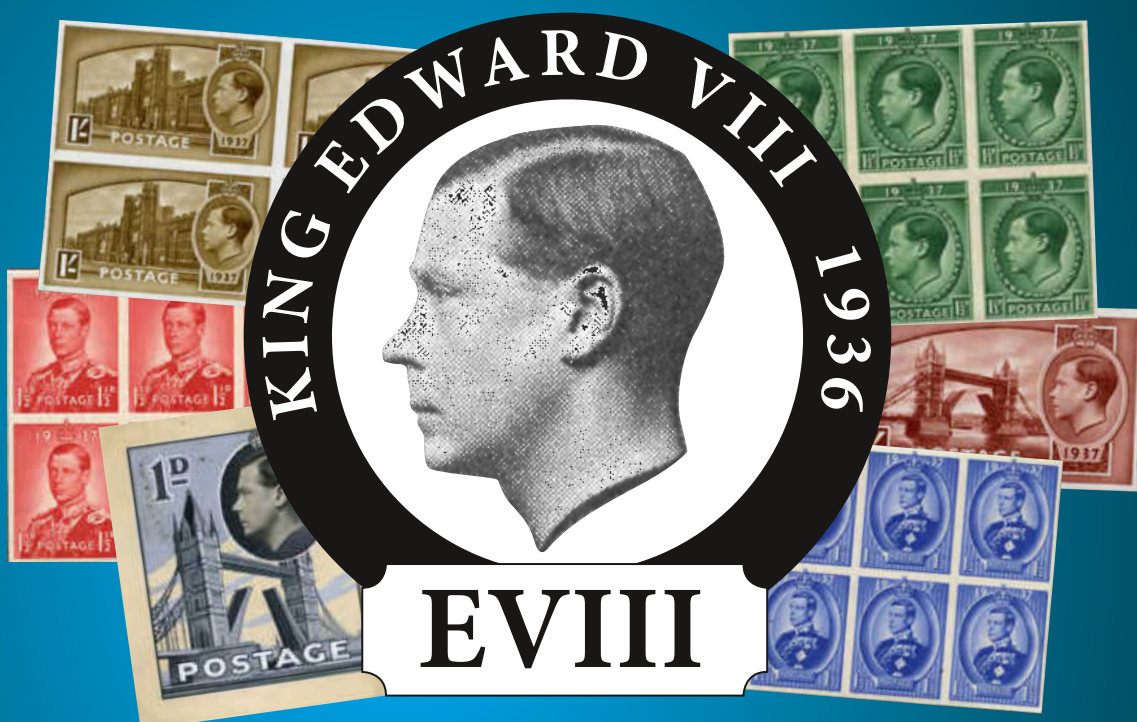


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MEET THE EXPERTS...



Michael Adkins collects stamps and banknotes from countries, colonies or occupational forces which no longer exist. Michael manages the website DCStamps.com and writes our regular 'dead countries' series which, this month, focuses on German East Africa (page 62).



The Fitzwilliam Museum's Richard Kelleher has a background in field archaeology and has studied the history of coins for many years. He writes our exclusive monthly series on the British Museum's renowned coin collection, see page 104.



Professional writer Chris West has written about many different subjects, from crime fiction through history to how to start a business. He has written two books on stamps, including *First Class: A History of Britain in 36 Postage Stamps* and writes our Stamp Story on page 55.

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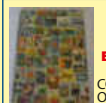
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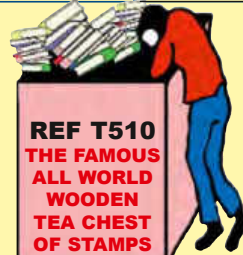
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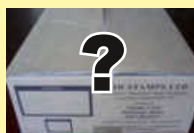
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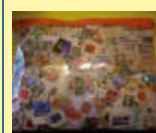


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Online gallery and stamps celebrate Royal Mail's 500th anniversary

Royal Mail is celebrating the 500th anniversary of Brian Tuke becoming the first Master of the Posts, in 1516, with a special website highlighting 500 objects, people and events that tell the story of the postal service.

While the exact origins of the British postal service are a subject of debate, the knighting of Brian Tuke is being celebrated as 'the catalyst for the creation of the Royal Mail



we know today', and Royal Mail will issue a set of six stamps and a miniature sheet to mark the 500th anniversary on 17 February (see page 36). Meanwhile, Royal Mail has

worked with The Postal Museum (formerly the British Postal Museum & Archive) to launch an extensive online gallery celebrating the five centuries of postal history.

According to a Royal Mail spokesperson the gallery (www.royalmailgroup.com/500years) not only tells the story of the postal service but also of the 'contribution to social and political development over the last 500 years'.

Moya Greene, Chief Executive Officer, Royal Mail, said: 'We are proud to celebrate the heritage of this great company. The history of the postal service in the UK reflects the tremendous societal and political change that has taken us from 16th-century Tudor England to the United Kingdom today.'

We stamp collectors may be forgiven for being a little confused about Royal Mail's



exact origins, with British stamps marking different anniversaries over the years. In 1985 we were treated to a set of stamps to mark the 350th anniversary of the Royal Mail Public Postal Service; the bicentenary of First Mail Coach Run was marked with stamps in 1984; and in 1960 we saw stamps to celebrate the Tercentenary of the General Letter Office. Other stamps paying homage to Royal Mail activities include the 'Transport and Communications' set of four of 1988, the 'British Post Office Technology' issue of 1969, and the 'Postboxes' mini sheet of 2009, to name but a few. Still, other countries are also inclined to celebrate their postal system as our thematics article reveals on page 76.

You can visit Royal Mail's new website at: www.royalmailgroup.com/500years

500 years of history

The online gallery presents 500 objects, people and events that tell the long story of the postal service, including these highlights...

1516

Henry VIII knighted Brian Tuke, the first Master of the Posts. Tuke had the influence and authority to establish key post towns across the country and build a formal postal network.

1635

The postal service was opened up to the general public by King Charles I. A Letter Office was established in London, and six post roads were formalised, including Dover to London, to carry mail across the country.

1661

The first Bishop mark (or postmark as it is known today) was used. This identified the date of dispatch to give confidence in the speed and reliability of the mail. It was named after the then Postmaster General, Henry Bishop.

1784

Horse drawn coaches featuring the Royal Mail livery were deployed for the first time to transport the mail, following a trial run between Bristol and London. Other routes to major cities soon followed. The departure of the night mail from London was a public spectacle, with hundreds of onlookers gathering to watch the coaches depart.

1840

The introduction of the Penny Post prompted an unprecedented expansion in the popularity of mail, as it became more affordable. Mail volumes rose from 67 million in 1839 to 242 million by 1844, with a further lift to more than one billion letters by 1875.

1853

Postboxes first appear with the insignia, or cypher, of the monarch reigning at the time of placement.



1868

Cats were first officially appointed by the Post Office to catch rodents. Three cats worked at the Money Order Office in London, with an allowance of one shilling a week.



1944

General Dwight D Eisenhower wrote to the Postmaster General, thanking staff for keeping communications open across the country in the run up to D-Day.

1966

Queen Elizabeth II approved Arnold Machin's design of her to be used on what came to be known as the 'Machin series' of British definitive postage stamps. Her Majesty's image has appeared more than 180 billion copies produced to date.

2012

Twenty nine stamps were produced to honour Great Britain's gold medal winners at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Philatelic Congress set for Cambridge

The annual Philatelic Congress of Great Britain is set to take place at the Belfry Hotel in Cambourne, Cambridgeshire between 21 and 24 July and will be hosted by the Cambridge Philatelic Society.

The special weekend has taken place each year since 1909, giving philatelists the opportunity to meet with fellow collectors and enjoy events such as displays, visits, and a Congress Banquet. The philatelic theme for this year's event is 'Islands' with talks and displays on planned for the Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings. The programme also includes a display from the Cambridge Philatelic Society archive on the postal history of Cambridge, a talk on the history of the private Cambridge University College stamps and their suppression by the Post Office, and a guided postal history walking tour of the city. The Banquet will be in the dining hall of Peterhouse College, while the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists ceremony, which sees invites renowned philatelists to sign the historic roll, will be held in St John's College Chapel on the Friday afternoon.

David Stirrups, Chairman, Congress 2016 said: 'I hope you will put this in your diaries as "not to be missed" as I am sure this will be an entertaining and informative social and philatelic occasion.'

For further details on the event, including how to book, visit the website: <http://gbcongress.uk>



York to host exhibition

The York Stamp & Coin Fair, held twice a year at the York Racecourse, will once again host an ABPS philatelic exhibition in the summer, with 200 frames available.

The Northern Philatelic Exhibition, sponsored by the stamp auction house Corbitts, will take place during the popular fair, on 15 and 16 July, 2016, and will include all national classes with a national judging team. Exhibitors will need to mount their own exhibits in frames on the Thursday and take them down on the Saturday from 3pm.

Entry forms will be available on the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) website (www.abps.org.uk) and further information can be obtained from Graham Winters on e-mail: j.g.winters@hotmail.com; tel: 01924 259713.

Competition winners

Congratulations to the following readers, who won Royal Mail Nativity presentation packs in our December issue: Andrew Sutherland, Luton; Alan Claremont, Huddersfield; Mr R W Fielder, Weymouth; Mr G Somerville, Bathgate; Nigel Horsley, York; Carole Nott, Bishops Stortford; Lee Clarke, Minehead; Lesley Dodd, Cleethorpes; Gordon Duke, Co Armagh, Andrea Aspell, Isle of Man. Malcolm Tucker of Plymouth won a Royal Mail Yearbook 2016, courtesy of Royal Mail, in the January issue Quiz of the Year competition.

China's monkey stamps signal end of 'one-child' law

The latest Chinese stamps celebrating the Year of the Monkey have proved incredibly popular in China, thanks in part to a reference to the end of the country's one-child policy.

The two Year of the Monkey stamps were issued on 5 January and both have a face value of 1.20 yuan. One of the stamps shows an adult monkey holding two babies, an apparent reference to China's relaxation of the one-child policy on 1 January, 2016, with Chinese families now permitted to have two children. A statement from China Post described the image as conveying the 'public's expectations regarding family harmony and longevity'.

The stamps were designed by Huang Yongyu, the artist responsible for the 1980 monkey stamp which has dramatically increased in value since its release.



According to reports, it was Huang who suggested adding a second baby to the new design to reflect the law change. The new stamps could rise in value too, since the monkey is considered to be lucky in China, and the change in law may be seen as a historic moment in Chinese history.



UPA to donate vouchers to help stamp clubs

Philatelic societies with at least 25 members are being invited to apply for a free £150 voucher to use at Universal Philatelic Auctions (UPA), which can be auctioned off to members to raise society funds.

Andrew McGavin at UPA said: 'We came up with the simple idea of issuing a £150 UPA credit voucher which we issued to two philatelic societies for them to auction at fund-raising society auctions or meetings.' According to UPA the first £150 voucher auctioned at the Dundee Convention in October 2015 raised £84, while a second voucher was auctioned at the Bookham Stamp Club Christmas lunch for £95, with the money going towards Bookham Stamp Club funds.

Andrew added: 'In a sense this is a small difference but if we all pooled together in this way then philatelic societies in the UK would receive a substantial boost to stamp funds.'

A maximum of fifty vouchers will be issued to UK philatelic societies during 2016 and society secretaries are invited to apply by contacting UPA at 4 The Old Coalyard, West End, Northleach, Glos, GL54 3HE, or by calling 01451 861 111. Society members winning these vouchers can spend them in UPA auctions; the vouchers may not be used in conjunction with any other offer. The vouchers have a reserve price of £75 meaning the society auction must sell them for at least £75.

Bletchley Park Post Office moves to Bristol museum

Bletchley Park Post Office (BPPO), created on the site of the undercover mailroom used by the code breakers during the Second World War, has been moved to the Oakham Treasures museum in Bristol.

The historic mail room, which used the address PO BOX 111, Bletchley and routed mail through different locations to avoid revealing Bletchley Park's real purpose, was created into a sub post office and shop after the war and, until recently, was the home of Bletchley Park Covers, producers of first day and commemorative covers relating to the wartime location.

'BPPO was fully aware five years before its closure that the development of Bletchley Park was centred around the work carried out during the Second World War,' John Chapman told us. 'There was never a post office at the park during the war, there was a registry; the 12,000 or so codebreakers, translators and Intelligence staff as well as the many clerical staff working there could not have letters sent to the code breaking station at Bletchley, so they were addressed to PO box addresses. Conversely, the post going out was taken by caretaker Mr Budd on a journey down to St Albans and back, stopping off at post boxes and post offices, even a department stores post room in St Albans, where small packs of Post were left.'

While the location of the post office has changed, the organisation will continue to issue commemorative covers and stamp sheets in the future, John confirmed. 'We are already finalising the design of a

sheet of pigeon stamps which will mark the centenary of the Somme and carrier pigeon involvement, this will be produced for Smiler and Business sheet collectors, while a first day cover and possible official miniature sheet will also be issued.'

'Others have approached the postmaster of the former post office at Bletchley Park, to issue future covers and philatelic products, including the Linc Lanc association, 50th Anniversary committee of Milton Keynes and other First World War centenary groups... There is still a chance in the future for further connections with Bletchley,' John Chapman continues as a guide at the wartime location and presents talks on the subject on cruise ships.

For details of the remaining Bletchley Park covers, Smilers and rare business sheets available, contact John Chapman on e-mail: chapdjman@gmail.com; tel: 0121 422 5426, 07850 239923. 'I have access to a couple of collections which have come up on the market,' John added, 'including a special one featuring Bletchley Covers from 1995 to 2015, some of which have some rather special signatures and others that are linked with coins.'

Oakham Treasures is one of the largest privately owned museums of retail and farming history in the UK, and includes a grocery store, sweet shop, hardware store and chemist, as well as a tractor and farm museum. Find out more on the museum's website: www.oakhamtreasures.co.uk

Royal Mail issue Penny Red 175th anniversary stamp and Stampex limited editions

Royal Mail are celebrating the 175th anniversary of the Penny Red stamp with a special prestige stamp book (PSB) containing a new stamp design recreating the famous 1841 design, while visitors to Stampex will be able to pick up a limited edition miniature sheet presentation pack and stamp card, exclusive to the event.

The new 1st Class stamp recreates the Penny Red stamp issued in 1841, following the similar treatment of the Penny Black and Twopenny Blue stamps issued last year to coincide with the London 2015 stamp exhibition. The new stamp is only available in a prestige stamp book (£16.36), on two PSB First Day Covers (£6.53 each), in a generic sheet (£13.10), two Smilers Sheets (£18.65 and £10.20), and a stamp retail book (£3.78). All products are issued on 18 February, the day after the Royal Mail 500 stamp

and miniature sheet are issued (see page 36 for details).

Meanwhile, the success of the limited edition presentation pack at the Europhilex London 2015 exhibit has prompted Royal Mail to issue more exclusive products, this time at Stampex.

Visitors to the show, being held at the Business Design Centre in Islington from 17 to 20 February, will be able to purchase the 'RM500' miniature sheet in a special serially numbered presentation pack featuring a Stampex overprint (7,500 copies, priced £7.95), and a miniature sheet stamp card with Stampex

overprint (3,000 copies, 90p). Both products will only be available at Stampex, with an allocation for each day of the event, and restrictions on the numbers purchased.



Q&A: Chris King

This month some of the world's most prestigious collections will be on show at Stampex in London, as part of the Seven Nations Challenge. We asked Chris King, the Chair of ABPS National Exhibitions and International Committee and a member of the Stamp & Coin Mart Advisory Board, to tell us more about the exhibits

What is the idea behind the Seven Nations Challenge?

The Seven Nations Challenge is a way of bringing high quality philatelic collections which are normally only seen at the biggest philatelic exhibitions, to another audience. We have had some stunning exhibitions in the past, the first one was in Australia and the second in Malmo, Sweden two years ago. In that exhibition Germany and Great Britain achieved the exact same number of points, but they beat us on 'goal difference', so the frames at Stampex are a joint exhibit between the ABPS and the Bund Deutscher Philatelisten (BDPh).

How are the exhibits chosen?

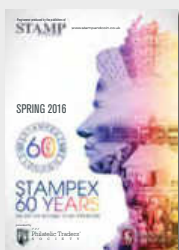
A commissioner is chosen from each country and it is up to them to pull together the best exhibits they can. There are four exhibits, each of a different class, from each of the following countries: Denmark, Sweden, Belgium, Great Britain, Germany, Australia and the USA. That gives us 28 exhibits of eight frames. There is a good range of exhibits including Aerophilately, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Revenues, Thematics, and Traditional.

What are some of the highlights of the exhibits?

'A Whale's Tale' by Lesley Marley is one of the top UK thematics exhibitions. 'The Squared Skilling Stamps of Denmark' was last seen around ten years ago and is probably the best classic Denmark material in an exhibition. There is a very nice Saint Helena Postal History exhibit from Sweden, and Dave Elsmore's 'Queensland Revenues' is impressive. There's really something for everyone.

Why should collectors visit the exhibition at Stampex?

It's a good opportunity to see a small scale but high quality, very interesting exhibition without having to browse through the hundreds of frames seen at a larger international exhibition. It's a concentration of special exhibits.



See a full listing of the Seven Nations Challenge and other philatelic exhibits on show at Stampex in your official show guide, given away free with this issue of *Stamp & Coin Mart*. You can see more philatelic exhibits in the regular 'Stamp showcase' article in every issue (see page 58). Find out more about the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) at: www.abps.org.uk



Highlights from the Seven Nations Challenge... Gordon Eubanks (USA) exhibit. Pair of the first issue of the USA used from Canada in May of 1851, paying postage to New York



Item from Jan Berg (Sweden) exhibit: Gauthier Frères & Cie, 1856 - 1857. With only nine stamps recorded in total this is the unique example used on a complete cover. The cover is dated Rio de Janeiro 4 February, 1857 and sent to Bordeaux, France. It is endorsed 'par Franc Comtois' and 'Franco Havre', has an entry mark 'Outremer/Le Havre/13 MARS 57'. It was regarded as unpaid for the interior of France it was charged 12 decimes on arrival. The stamp is cancelled with 'G. F. & C.' in script.



Carsten Mintert (Germany) exhibit: a printing plate of Austrian newspaper tax stamps containing four groups of 100 stamps each (total 400 stamps). This mint and unique sheet shows the 'heart' of the printing sheet of the 1 Kreuzer which was issued in 1877 but should not exist since only a group of 100 stamps were sent to the tax and postal offices by the printing office of the Austrian governance.

INTERESTING & UNUSUAL

EUROPE

100's in slim stock book all mentioned are mint unless otherwise stated.. Italy 1878 2c on 10L. 1945 100L.. Monaco inc 1891 5c blue. 10c brown, Luxembourg inc 1939 20th Year M/S.. San Marino 1877 10c blue, 2Fr (FU) Rumania with 1931 Scouts.. 1932 Medical, Postal Employees, Belgium 1960 Refugees, Austria with 1923 '24 Artists, Albania inc 1925 Air set, 1931 Tirane- Rome set etc. Fine lot Cat £3900 **£375.00**

CANADA

100+ from imperfs 3d.. Perf'd Colony types to 12 ½ c.. Large and small heads inc odd unused, Maple leaves to 8c, Quebec 7c (FU) 'back of the book' inc the scarce 8c registered Cat £2100 **£265.00**

CHINA

About 100 from large Dragons 1ca (corner fault) 5ca (VFU) Small Dragons one of each, 1898 to 50c.. 1913 to \$1 etc to 1930 Cat £1410 **£265.00**

DENMARK

Few 100's from 1851 4RBS (2) 1858 4SK (3) 1875 to 100ore (inc 5,20 ore) 1907 Frederik set, later to 1990's with odd D.W.I etc Cat £600 **£85.00**

FRENCH P.O'S AND COLONIES

100's with most areas well represented, the colonies generally from a range Peace & Commerce types to mid values, early pictorials with better items, strong P.O's inc Tunisia, Morocco etc **£130.00**

GERMANY

West Many, many 100's in Davo from odd earlies inc 1949 U.P.U Posthorn set (FU) Otto, Reis etc, but appears complete 1954 Heuss to 1995. From 1970's onwards the pages are hingeless. Huge Cat value **£365.00**

States About 60 inc NGC vals to 3KR, Hanover with a superb 1859 10Gr (very scarce) few Hamburg, Prussia 1861 to 3sgr. T & T etc Cat £3300 **£225.00**

GULF STATES

100's on leaves with Saudi Arabia from 1934 inc rare 1966 23p (M) to 1990 in good number, Fujaira, Bahrain from KG5, Strong Aden from Dhows to 2 ½ a, KG6 to 2R, QE to 10/-, States with sets to mid vals / mainly M Ajman, Sharjah etc really good lot **£235.00**

ITALY

100's from 1862 (with Newspaper stamp) 1863 to 60c.. O'Prints on Officials, 1879 to 50c, 1889 to 1L, later to 1990 with better inc few States and good back of the book Cat £3300+ **£375.00**

JAPAN

120+ from 1872 with 1876 range to 1 yen, 1915 Coro set, then range to 1978 inc odd better **£50.00**

LUXEMBOURG

100's from 1865 to 20c.. 1891 to 1Fr.. 1921 to 2Fr, Charity issues inc 1935 set, 1939 set, later to 1987 **£40.00**

MEXICO

About 80 from 1856 inc 1868 12c, 25c, 1872 100c (UN) good range 1884 Hidalgo, 1886 Numerals, later to 1920's Interesting lot **£60.00**

NETHERLANDS COLONIES

100's inc Antilles from 1949 Discovery sey, 1950 to 5G.. Curacao from 187 inc 1892 set, 1895 2 ½ c on 10c.. 1942 Airs to 2G50, Indies from 1870 to 50c inc 1885 5c green, 1930 Child Welfare set, New Guinea, very strong Suriname from 1873 to 2 ½ G scarce (cat £400+) 1892 set much later **£185.00**

SAAR

37 specialised first O'Print types all FU inc 1MK expertised Dr Dub and others, then a range O'Prints Gibbons type 1a and 1b inc scarce. Some are expertised more than once. Cat £1990 **£310.00**

TURKEY

About 100 from 1867, 1886 to 5pi, 1901 range, 1923 vals to 15pi.. Later inc 1938 Proclamation set **£35.00**

U.S.A

Many 100's from imperfs, 1861 1c, 2c, 10c, 24c, 1870 to 30c inc 12c, 1890 to 30c, Columbus to 10c, Omaha to 10c.. Later with dues, officials etc to 1970's Cat £2200 **£235.00**

VATICAN

130+ from a range Papal States to 8baj and 80c 1929 to 2L50, 1935 Congress set, Airs etc to 1990 Cat £950 **£110.00**

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Philately will get you everywhere!

Philatelists restore former Falklands PO

Our wonderful hobby can take us to many exotic locations around the world as we pursue items and share our passion with like-minded enthusiasts. Many philatelists will descend upon New York later this year for the World Stamp Show, others will land on these shores for this month's Stampex event in London which features a 'Seven Nations Challenge', but few collectors will go to quite the same lengths as Hugh Osborne, Stefan Heijtz, or Richard Hewitt, in the name of collecting.

Philatelists Hugh Osborne and Stefan Heijtz recently set off for Fox Bay in the Falkland Islands where they will spend the next few months renovating a former government building which has served as a post office and museum. 'We met in the 1980s through stamp collecting,' Hugh told us. 'Stefan produces the Falkland Islands Stamp Catalogue and bought the old building. It was formerly a government building serving the west island, and was used for official purposes such as births, deaths, marriages, and postal services. A telegraph service was operated there beginning shortly after the First World War.'

Now the pair of collectors are exchanging the comforts of home – Stefan is from Stockholm, Hugh from Surrey – for the rugged landscapes of the remote South Atlantic, where communication



A postcard produced by Stefan Heijtz who recently bought the Old Post Office and Museum

with the outside world is more limited. Fox Bay is located on West Falkland, one of the two larger islands in the archipelago. To celebrate their two-month excursion Stefan has produced a special postcard (above) showing the old post office and museum. One wonders if the pair will find time to add any other philatelic oddities to their collection during their busy, and unique, winter break!

...while collector recounts travels to Tristan

Meanwhile, collector Richard Hewitt, who co-writes this month's guide to collecting the stamps of Tristan da Cunha, has visited the tiny island nation twice, in 2011 and 2013. 'I started collecting Tristan stamps many years ago,' he tells us. 'I always had a special feeling for Tristan because of its remoteness and the difficulty of getting there and getting ashore, its a wonderful community where everybody helps each other.'

Richard got his chance to visit the remotest island in the world after joining the Tristan da Cunha Association, a group that works to raise funds to help the Tristan community. 'As a member I got early warning the RMS *St Helena* was going to call at Tristan on the way from Cape Town to St Helena in 2011 to commemorate fifty years since the island was evacuated because of the volcanic eruption,' Richard explains. 'My journey started at Inverness to Birmingham then to Cape Town via Amsterdam, we arrived a couple of days early and had some time in Cape Town, in case there were any delays we did not want to miss the RMS. We left Cape Town on Tuesday 25 January and arrived at Tristan via Gough Island, which is 200 miles to the South of Tristan, on 30 January. After clearing

formalities it was down a rope ladder and in to the small harbour by *Gemeni*, and we felt very privileged we had arrived safely, unlike many other visitors who do not get ashore because of the sea conditions.'

Richard's visits to the region have included staying at a local's house, attending official functions, and visiting Tristan's Post Office and Tourism Centre. According to Richard, a trip to the remote land quickly brings the challenges of island life into perspective, with the locals having only occasional deliveries and contact with the outside world, though newer technologies at least mean communication has improved. 'It has been a great privilege to visit Tristan twice and get ashore both times. I have made some good friends, and now because of modern communications I can phone my friends on the island and get all the news... it is a very special place and anyone who has ever visited has a special addiction and love for the island for the rest of their life... I would encourage

people who collect the stamps from remoter countries to try and visit.'

You can read about and see items from Hugh Osborne's impressive collection of Falkland Islands stamps and covers in our regular 'Stamp showcase' article on page 58. Richard Hewitt co-writes our guide to the stamps of Tristan da Cunha on page 49.



The Tristan da Cunha Post Office and Tourism Centre and, right, Richard on the 'remotest land'

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GB stamps featuring 1841 2d blues and extensive postal stationery;
GB postal history with ship letters and maritime mail of Liverpool and
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Liverpool, London and a collection of the Stuart Period with historical
letters; Air Mails featuring exceptional Djibouti flights, Marc Pourpe
flights, African flights by French, Belgian and Italian aviators or airlines,
Iraq and India, Imperial Airways and other crash covers; Wreck mail;

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Canada stamps; Swiss collection; Persia stamps;

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The Crest of Jersey on new Post & Go designs



Jersey Post are set to launch a new Post & Go design featuring 'The Crest of Jersey' later this month to coincide with the Stampex event in London.

To be issued on 17 February, the first day of the Stampex exhibition in London, the stamps will be available to vend from Jersey Post's JE01 Post & Go kiosk. Melanie Gouzinis, Head of Philatelic at Jersey Post said: 'This is our first new Post & Go design since the launch of Jersey Protected Species at last year's Spring Stampex. The stamps depict the Crest of Jersey in a contemporary colour palette and, if you look

closely, you will see the names of all twelve island parishes printed in the background waves. The stamps will also be available from Jersey Post's JE02 kiosk located at Jersey's main Broad Street post office in St Helier and from our "B series" back office kiosk "B002".

Jersey Post & Go kiosks will continue to vend the original Jersey flag stamps alongside The Crest of Jersey. For the duration of Spring Stampex, Jersey flag stamps vended from Jersey's JE01 kiosk will feature a special overprint reading '500 Years of Postal History, in celebration of Royal Mail's 500 year anniversary'. The overprint will also be available on back office collectors' strips from Jersey's B002 kiosk.

The Crest of Jersey stamps and philatelic stamp products such as First Day Covers and Presentation Packs are available to pre-order at www.jerseystamps.com or by contacting the Jersey Philatelic Bureau on: 00 44 (0)1534 616320.

BPMA relaunches as The Postal Museum

On 4 February, the British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA) officially changed its name to The Postal Museum and we can exclusively reveal the logo for the forthcoming museum and the Mail Rail attraction below.

The launch of the new brand took place on the morning of 4 February at Calthorpe House in North London, where TV presenter Dan Snow hosted a special 'breaking ground' ceremony, signalling the start of construction work on the site.

As part of this rebrand, the overprint on the BPMA's Post & Go will change to reflect the new name, featuring the new logo and the words 'The Postal Museum'. This new overprint can now be seen on the Machin, Union Flag and Heraldic Lion designs. Products featuring the new overprint are available from the online shop reflecting this important development in the organisation's history.



The first special issue of Post & Go stamps to feature the new branding will be the Postal Heritage Vehicles issue from 17 February. Stamps are available from the foyer at Freeling House during standard opening hours. Please check postalheritage.org.uk for more information.

Don't miss next month's *Stamp & Coin Mart* for an in-depth report and interviews from the launch.

South American stamp exhibition at the Royal

A new exhibition entitled 'Portraits of South American Revolutionaries' was recently opened at the Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) Museum.

Running until 30 April, the display looks at the emergence of the South American republics through the actions of figures

such as Simón Bolívar, who was both a hero and villain, and now is one of the most revered people in South America. Mark Copley, Curator at the RPSL said: 'Their revolutionary legacies are commemorated through stamps printed by Perkins Bacon in the first decades of the 20th century, some 100 years after independence. We show the unique stamp dies, and other items from the records of the printers, Perkins Bacon.'

The exhibition may be viewed by prior appointment and guided tours are available on the last Friday of every month. Please contact the RPSL on tel: 0207 486 1044; e-mail: museum@rpsl.org.uk

You can read an exclusive article based on the RPSL exhibition on the *Stamp & Coin Mart* website. Just visit: <http://stamp.cm/sth-america>



Thanks for the feedback!

The *Stamp & Coin Mart* team would like to thank everyone who came along to our 'Reader Forum' at the recent York Stamp & Coin Fair and the hundreds of you who completed our Reader Survey. It was lovely to hear your views and find out more about your collecting interests. If you have any feedback on the magazine, please do not hesitate to let us know, just e-mail your comments to: matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk

USA to issue *Star Trek* stamps

The US Postal Service has revealed the designs of many of the USA stamps to be issued during 2016, including a set of four celebrating the sci-fi TV and movie franchise *Star Trek*.

Acting Stamp Services Director Mary-Anne Penner said: 'Our stamps articulate the American experience through miniature works of art. Our diverse stamp topics for 2016 are sure to appeal to everyone... now is a perfect time to get started in stamp collecting. It's an educational hobby the entire family can enjoy.'

Stamp subjects include: Black Heritage: Richard Allen, Legends of Hollywood: Shirley Temple, Indiana Statehood, Pluto – Explored! and stamps for the World Stamp Show taking place in New York in May.

For the latest new stamps visit our website: stamp.cm/new-stamps



Transport Heritage on latest Post & Go

Royal Mail are set to issue six new Post & Go stamps on 17 February, on the theme of Royal Mail Heritage: Transport.

The 1st Class stamps, designed by Howard Brown and featuring illustrations by Andrew Davidson, reflect the 'movement of mail via methods of transport' and show airmail of the 1930s, a Falmouth packet ship of the 1820s, a 1790s mail coach, a 1970s Royal Mail minivan, and 19th-century travelling post office (TPO). The stamps were printed by International Security Printers using the gravure process.

A spokesperson for Royal Mail said: 'The earliest method of transport for mail was by foot, but increased distance and a greater volume of letters led to the employment of horses. Even greater volumes of mail entailed the use of horse-drawn carts and then vans for road transport, as well as the early adoption of railways, while sailing ships carried the mail still farther, across the globe. These have been the favoured forms of mail transport for much of the past five centuries.'

Products available include a stamp set with carrier card (priced at £3.78) and two first day covers (£5.02 each), with Tallents House and 'Gavre' handstamps, respectively. The FDC comes with a special filler card featuring information on postal transport written by Julian Stray, Assistant Curator at The Postal Museum. Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes (30p) will be available from selected Post Offices approximately one week before the stamps go on sale.

The Royal Mail Heritage: Transport set is the first in a series of Post & Go stamps to explore the transportation of mail, to be continued in 2017. For more information visit www.royalmail.com/postandgo



In brief

Eleven of Australia's celebrated singles tennis players are being honoured on stamps issued by Australia Post on 21 January. Players to receive the 2016 Australia Post Legends Award and the stamp honour include Pat Cash, Evonne Goolagong Cawley AO MBE, John Newcombe AO OBE, Patrick Rafter. Lleyton Hewitt is also honoured to commemorate his retirement from competitive tennis and appointment as the new captain of the 2016 Davis Cup team. Players Rod Laver and Margaret Court do not appear on the new set, since they have already appeared on Australia's 'Tennis Legends' stamps in 2003.

A Finnish stamp celebrating the Karelian pasty has prompted



a passionate response via social media, with many Fins commenting that the pasties shown on the stamp are not home-made but poorer, factory-made examples. Many people posted images of their own pasties on twitter with some including links to recipes. The stamp is part of the 2016 Nordic stamp series, the theme of which is Nordic culinary culture.

The 39th North East Philatelic Weekend is set to be held at the Britannia Hotel, Newcastle Airport between 13 and 15 May. The programme includes 'Berwick Postal History' by Dave Foster, First World War Cinderellas by Stuart Henderson, and an auction on the Saturday afternoon. For full event details contact Valerie Beeken, tel: 0191 3861931. See more society news on page 78.



Bill Barrell Ltd has moved to new premises at: Bill Barrell Ltd 10494, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG21 0HS. Bill said: 'We have recently acquired two nice collections of books, please check our website at www.barrell.co.uk or call us on 01476 594698 or email bill@barrell.co.uk for more information.'

Latest auction results

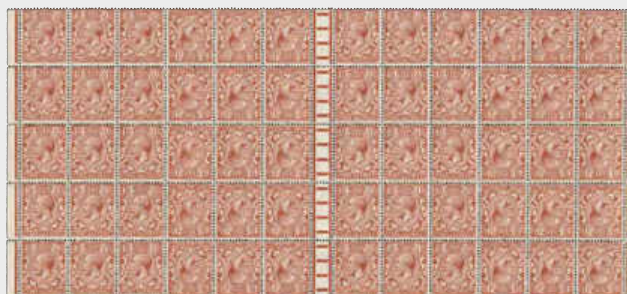


Spink's sale of the 'Meiso Mizuhara, The Exhibition Collections, The Chinese Customs Post' in Hong Kong saw several records broken, including the price paid for the famous Chinese 1897 'small dollar' revenue stamp. The 3c red on offer featured a \$1 surcharge and boasted 'fresh, bright colour on white paper'. The auction catalogue described the stamp as a 'very good example of this legendary rarity' and the hammer finally fell at HK\$6.24 million.

SOLD FOR £556,501

A cover sent from Canada but bearing USA stamps recently sold for \$55,000 at a US auction. The cover, sold by Robert A Siegel, featured a horizontal pair of the USA 5c red brown stamps, tied with two Canadian seven-ring target cancels, and featuring a part strike of a red 'Montreal L.C. MY 2 1851' circular date stamp (CDS) and matching 'CANADA' framed handstamp. The auction house explained the cover's rarity: 'any cover with the 1847 issue used from Canada is rare, but covers mailed during the treaty period with the stamps cancelled by the Canadian target are the rarest and most desirable of all... The United States-Canada postal treaty went into effect on 6 April, 1851, and established the prepaid rate of 6d in Canada and 10c in the United States. The use of United States 1847 stamps in Canada, which was practised prior to the April 1851 treaty, continued for a period of months, even after the 1847 issue was demonetised on 1 July, 1851. Very few covers are recorded during the treaty period with 1847 stamps cancelled in Canada.'

SOLD FOR £38,780



Warwick & Warwick's recent auction at the Lord Leycester Hotel in December, included an impressive collection of King George V control blocks and other multiples, amongst which a remarkable interpanneau block of sixty of the 1924-6 1½d stood out. Estimated at £3,000, the lot eventually sold for £4,360. From January the auction will return to its previous venue, the newly renovated Court House in Jury Street, Warwick.

SOLD FOR £4,360



Elusive first day covers at the recent Sajal Philatelics Cover Auctions sale included a 1966 England Winners FDC featuring players Bobby and Jack Charlton, which was produced by Ashington Council to send out invitations to a Civic Reception for the brothers.

SOLD FOR £360

Internet auctions



Your quick reference price guide to recent internet sales,
in association with delcampe.net



Spink's record-breaking sale in Hong Kong saw a new world record set for the price paid for a stamp essay of any country. The essay featured the design of a pair of se-tenant 1878-83 'Large Dragon' stamps, produced 'in fine brush painted on stout wove paper'. The first stamp design showed 'the dragon guarding the Night-shining Pearl in black' while the second, lower stamp design featured an illustration of a six-storied pagoda which, according to the auction house, indicated a foreign hand unfamiliar with Buddhist iconography, since pagodas are built with an odd number of stories. The rarity was described as 'a delightful and highly important pair of essays, the dragon being extremely close to the accepted design'.

SOLD FOR £360,991



An Austrian Empire 10kr dark violet definitive stamp of 1919, overprinted 'POLSKA / POZSTA' for use in the Polish city of Kraków was recently sold at Cherrystone Auctions in the USA. One of only fifteen to 45 estimated to have been printed, the stamp fetched \$11,500.

SOLD FOR £8,108



SOLD FOR £2,650

GB £1,00 brown-lilac 'I.R. Official' overprinted 'SPECIMEN' mint with certificate



SOLD FOR £606

Belgium strip of 6x 2,50 fr coil stamps white paper 1958 MNH



SOLD FOR £644

Germany Bavaria 1 Kreuzer grey-black 1849 used with certificate



SOLD FOR £1,150

1840 1d Black PI 4 EK on 1d Mulready Worstad Norwich RPS Cert



SOLD FOR £432

1900 wreck of the Mexican: envelope from Cape Town to England franked with a single Table Bay 1d



SOLD FOR £1,310

France 10 Fr airmail 1928 on letter cancelled 'NEW YORK AU HAVRE' signed



SOLD FOR £1,517

Zara German occupation airmail letter from the Engineering Battalion to Chiopris 1943



SOLD FOR £398

Greece 1933 definitive (high values) MNH



SOLD FOR £346

Switzerland Railway 'TRAMELAN-TAVANNES' orange in pair mint

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WORLD VIEW

NC - 'Never collected'



I recently came across an old box of early US stamps that had been assembled in the 1920s by an attorney. I questioned the family carefully.

Had their grandfather been a stamp collector? Not to their knowledge. Good. Why did he throw 1920s mint commemoratives in this box? The reply was that he sent out a lot of mail and it was easier to put postage on the envelopes if you applied stamps in strips. Good. When he got down to one or a pair, he threw them in the box and started with a strip again when he had a new batch of letters.

For years I have wondered where the next quality craze would lead us after 'Never Hinged', and here it was...

My next question to the family was the important one: did he intend to use the stamps in the box and did he just forget about them or had he intended on putting them in an album and collecting them? They answered that he definitely intended to use them and must have forgotten as grandpa was tight as a drum and thought philately was silly.

Eureka! For years I have wondered where the next quality craze would lead us after 'Never Hinged', and here it was 'Never Collected', never looked at by a philatelist, never defiled by tongs, as pure as the day the stamp passed over the Post Office counter.

I quickly sealed the box. And if I could ever find a way to sell them without ruining their uniqueness, my fortune would be made.

John Apfelbaum has spent a lifetime learning about stamp collecting. He runs the venerable firm of stamp professionals Earl PL Apfelbaum, a business that has dealt in only stamps since 1901 and which was founded by his great grandfather. He can be reached at jda2006@aol.com



In the British Commonwealth section of the recent Warwick & Warwick auction a Malta 1938-43 2/6d in UM pair, with one showing the rarely seen 'damaged value tablet' was offered. A spokesperson said: 'The final price of £200 was half the catalogue value suggesting that the catalogue price does not reflect the scarcity of this variety'.

SOLD FOR £200

A French 1849, 25c overprint on 20c blue, which was never issued, was recently sold in Switzerland by Spink. The 'Ceres' stamp issue was France's first and featured a portrait of the Roman goddess of agriculture. The unissued overprinted rarity on offer was described as 'a magnificent appearing example' and 'extremely fine and most desirable'.



SOLD FOR £21,506



A collection of 19th-century material from the French Colony of Obock recently proved popular at Warwick & Warwick. The collection included the 'much prized' 1893-1904 pictorials to 25f and 50f and quickly surpassed its pre-sale estimate of £1,400.

SOLD FOR £2,300

A block of four USA 1919, 2c carmine rose stamps, showing the top plate number '7463' and 'S20' was recently sold by Daniel F Kelleher in the USA as part of the 'Harold B. Nogle Collection of the Origins and Progression of Plate Numbers'.



SOLD FOR £8,320



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THE MISSING MOOSE MAJOR ERROR SPECIAL OFFER #281

In 2004 I received a phone call from a collector a few miles from here. He was so excited I wasn't exactly certain what the error was that he was trying to describe, but it was quite clear to me that this was a lead worth following up. It took a total of three visits before I was finally able to purchase the item. It was the first known sheet of the \$5.00 Missing Moose colour error.

This stamp was printed by two distinct processes. One part was printed by lithography in four colours. Then the dark brown and green colours were added from engraved plates. The error occurred when a few sheets already lithographed went through the engraved press two at a time. The lower sheet did not receive the engraved colours as a result.

Only about ten sheets were ever found (a mere forty stamps). The problem was soon corrected at the printers and no more have come on the market now in several years.

This is a stunning error that has become famous not only in Canada but around the world. In fact, Stanley Gibbons Monthly magazine described it as the most spectacular missing colour error of any country in the entire world!

I recently picked up another sheet of this error. Catalogue price for a mint very fine unmounted mint single is £3,250.00. My price is just **£2,495.00** while they last. Ten equal monthly installments are acceptable if needed.

A copy of the Greene Foundation certificate issued for this sheet of four accompanies.



Normal



Error



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Unfillable perhaps, but not unfixable

Having stated that he would happily purchase and improve a printed album, David Bailey had no choice but to take on three big printed albums offered in a recent auction, with surprisingly pleasing results



A few months ago, I wrote about the lure of the big old printed album and

confidently stated 'if the right continuation lot comes up, I'll have it.'

So, inevitably, at my favourite philatelic auction, two turned up at once. The first was a two-volume *New Imperial* for British Empire and Egypt stamps up to 1936. The second was an *Ideal* Volume 2, fifth edition. This has printed spaces for foreign countries up to c.1912. No-one else in the room was interested, so I only had to bid against the book to get them both.

The *Ideal* is in remarkably good condition and seems to have only been used sporadically over its 100 year life. There are a few early ones in the printed places, mostly dreadful, while newer stamps have been added on the continuation



Before and after... older stamp albums can be repaired relatively cheaply, leaving you the challenge of filling the pages

This will all have to come out. Fortunately, hinges and other bits of gummed paper can be lifted by careful probing with a wet artist's paintbrush: so it's going to be a restoration job first and then a continuation project.

A few popular countries have been picked so vigorously as to leave holes in the paper; these can be cut out all together. This single volume has spaces for 23,300+ stamps, so the paper's bound to be a bit thin.

The album's major fault was that the spine

they can be replaced entirely from £100 to £150, including lettering for the spine. With my album, they simply needed to remove the old front cover joint and damaged pages, replace the cloth joint with matching cloth, reinforce the spine and re-attach the front cover. Total cost £60, including VAT. And the results are frankly superb.

Rebinding services like these could give many an old album a new lease of life and save the time and expense of transferring an existing collection to fresh pages.

Imperial Albums cater for the British Commonwealth and Egypt up to 1936 and attained their final form in the 1950s. It's a simplified listing that reflects the stamp collecting preferences of the time. For instance, in GB, there are spaces for all the line-engraved plate numbers, but the Edward VII section makes no distinction between ordinary and chalky papers and the De La Rue and provisional issues. It just shows relevant shades like Harrison's halfpenny dull green. There are also spaces for stamps which don't even merit a Gibbons 'a' or 'b' number today, like shade and overprint variations on the Gibraltar War Tax stamp. The album came with a good spread of mint and used issues with very few 'horrors'. So for now, it's a case of mounting all my odd bits of commonwealth into their new home and looking out for cheap 'one country' lots.

Meanwhile, it looks as if the revised and updated *New Imperial* will be available in time for Christmas 2016, almost certainly in a loose leaf format. But if you can't wait that long, or simply prefer the old fast bound version, keep a lookout at your local auction.

Rebinding services could give many an old album a new lease of life and save the time and expense of transferring an existing collection to fresh pages

sheets and the tracing paper interleaves. Some, from the 1920s to 1930s, are decent sets or singles and can be left where they are. But then, there is a lot of 'schoolboy' material from the 1950s, mostly junk and stuck in willy-nilly; usually by anything but a proper hinge.

had started to come away from the body of the album. But these things can be fixed. A quick internet search turned up a list of bookbinding and book repair specialists who can restore old printed albums for a surprisingly low price.

If the spine and covers are beyond saving,





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Philately Understood

What everybody ought to know about collecting and buying and selling stamps

Advance Notification of upcoming NEW 'Stamp Tips of the Trade' + 'Case Studies' Some *Plain Talk* about the simple business of stamps which often seems complicated

Why is my business publishing this information?

I can remember the day I found my Father's stamp collection in the bottom drawer of the bureau in the dining room more than 45 years ago. Aged 11, I was excited travelling the world through his stamps. In those days every school had a stamp club and mine was no exception. I took the collection to school and joined the stamp club. When Mr. Armitage (the Chemistry Teacher who ran the club) asked what stamps we collected I said "Wurttemberg" – much to everybody's surprise. In fact they were from Austria and the page was misclassified. They were those imperforate 1920's Austrian Newspaper stamps which fascinated me and as everybody now knows are hardly worth anything ... but probably they helped me get started in stamps.

Over following years I found little help in understanding stamps, so much had to be learned the hard-way, which is why my company UPA publishes what I dare to hope are useful articles about collecting and buying and selling stamps. It is my hope that these prove valuable to you and that we may serve you if you decide to contact us ...

There are several different types of stamp businesses

In fact no two stamp dealers are alike. What a truism that is. Once in Amsterdam I made the mistake of admitting to the owner of the stamp shop I was visiting that I was a dealer. In almost perfect English "We Don't sell to Dealers" and he turned his back. So did I - as I left his shop. But over the years I discovered that the only way to succeed in stamps was to create a business of stamp selling systems and join them all together. This is what allows us to handle stamps from literally every single country in the world. Recently in coming articles which I shall call '*Case Studies*' the strength of this business model has become apparent.

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Valuable Collections wanted: We can use and have clients who require GB collections to \$500,000, British Empire / British Commonwealth to \$250,000 and Foreign required. **Telephone, Fax or E-mail now.**

Why does UPA make Promotional Offers?

Unlike most other stamp companies we believe in giving before hoping to receive. We believe in proving to YOU that your trust in dealing with UPA is well founded. Proving to YOU in advance of asking you to purchase from us is much of our model. Most collector colleagues stay with UPA which is why we can make you such an extraordinary offer. 2,087 different collectors (and some dealers) bid in our latest auction, 90% of whom won lots. Without pernicious buyer's premium average regular collector bidders save \$250 a year at UPA. **Client loyalty is the reason why we can offer** 1st time buyers aged over 18 (!) \$55 OFF your 1st auction purchase whether you spend more than \$55 or not. '

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ANDREW PROMOTING PHILATELY ON THE ALAN TITCHMARSH SHOW ITV





POST & GO

New printing method

Traditionally the stock, or blank rolls of Post and Go stamps are printed in gravure by Walsall (ISP) with the service indicator being printed at the point of sale using the thermal printer on-board the kiosk, writes Stuart Leigh.

At the 31st Asian Stamp Exhibition in Hong Kong, Royal Mail sent two of their kiosks (A008 and A009) dispensing Union flag stamps and a special solo stamp from the recent issue, Sea Travel, namely the appropriate Hong Kong skyline. As this is the only time that this set will be issued, only a small print run was necessary, so Tallents House have experimented with a digitally printed stock. This method was used for the stamps produced for Qatar and Gibraltar.

The surface finish of the stamps is highly polished or shiny, and the norm for 1st Class stamps is to have two phosphor bands at either end of the image, however the entire image and margins are covered with a block of phosphor. But only under the microscope can the real difference be seen, the skyline image is consistent with the original gravure printing, it is the 'ROYAL MAIL' underprint that looks different: on the gravure printing it is almost solid whereas on the digitally printed stamps it is a series of spaced-out dots, and as the gravure printing faded towards the right-hand side the digital printing sees the dots spaced out even more.

The stamps from the B001 machine based at Tallents House are exactly the same, they were issued to coincide with the exhibition carrying the datastring BNGB15 B001, as opposed to BNHK15 A008 or A009 from Hong Kong.

The illustrations show the gravure printing on the top and digital lower. In my opinion we will probably see more of this, especially where smaller print runs are necessary, at overseas exhibitions.

We cannot leave this set of stamps from the B001 machine without the mention of the first few collector strips being sent out with the incorrect service indicators – Local Standard, UK Letter to 20g, UK Letter to 30g, EU Letter to 20g, Worldwide to 20g and Registered Fee, at a total price shown on the receipt of £6.12 instead of the normal collectors strip of £7.68.



Not quite how today's Star Wars fans see interplanetary travel, but the naive logic that a space traveller writing home will lick postage stamps while traversing the outer rim of the Milky Way is rather appealing

CINDERELLAS

Interplanetary connections

The sheet of fantasy stamps illustrated here reminded me of the Dan Dare Album of similar stamps we featured in this column back in 2013 when it came up for auction on eBay UK and sold for around £100. We explained at the time that Dan Dare was a creation of the Hulton Press. In 1953 they licensed Lever Brothers, manufacturers of Lifebuoy Soap, to feature Dan Dare and his spacemen crew on poster stamps which Lever used to promote their products. They printed the albums and gave one free to any child who sent in three 2½d stamps and a soap bar wrapper. Stamps to fill the album could then be obtained as exchanges for more wrappers. The key to the advertising campaign was the phrase 'Get Mum to buy LIFEBOUY SOAP right away. You mustn't miss this grand chance to be one of the first ever to possess a set of Interplanetary Stamps!' It proved a fantastic success as a sales campaign, with thousands of albums filled by enthusiastic stamp collecting and Dan Dare besotted youngsters.

A few years later, copyright on, or licences to print, the stamps seems to have passed to other parts of the world. In the USA, circa 1962, sets very similar to the Lever Brothers issues were sold by the Tatham Stamp Company of Springfield, Massachusetts. They differed slightly in design and colour, though they relied heavily on the original designs, and retained novae as the Interplanetary currency. I was recently informed by a reader that an Australian company produced similar fantasy stamps, but I've so far failed to find examples. My discovery hails from Canada and dates from 1962; a sheet of twelve depicting planetary and space themes. They were produced by Modern Publications of St. Catharines, Ontario and titled *Interplanetary Postal Essays* by the creator. Probably the only characteristic they have in common with those that featured in the original Lifebuoy Soap promotion is that they retain the interplanetary

FIRST DAY COVERS

Junk or Collectable?

I think we have all arrived home after a hard day's work, put the key in the front door and had to force it open because your way is blocked by a large pile of junk mail, writes Brian Austin. For over sixty years first day covers have played a part in trying to make sure the contents are read, rather than just landing in the recycling.



During the 1950s companies started to realise that if they made their mailing into a first day cover, it was more likely to be kept and may even be opened and read. The Sterling Offices Limited used this trick in that decade and by the 1960s many medical firms had caught on, using this trick when mailing doctors, which may well have led to many becoming collectors.

The problem with many of these as covers is that most companies just used the lowest value stamp they could from a set, making most of the FDCs worthless. Nearly every collection I see has at least one Save the Children Fund single stamp cover in it; I was recently even offered a collection of these from India.

Some, though, should still have a place in your collection. For example this full set for the Caxton issue produced by ICL, though it is a Bureau postmark and does have a typed address, is rather amusing since they were trying to demonstrate the progress of technology, from Caxton's printing press through to the most modern 1976 computer... I should perhaps mention at this stage I am writing this column on a small tablet on a high speed train! How things have changed!

ERRORS

A comedy of errors

An example of the 64p Charlie's Genius commemorative lacking silver (Queen's head, value and inscriptions) from the Entertainers' Tale set of 1 June, 1999 has been reported by a *Stamp & Coin Mart* reader. To date this is the only such example recorded. Earlier designs from the over-egged Millennium Series exist with the gold or silver inscriptions et al missing – the 26p and 43p values from the Settlers' Tale of April the same year, for instance – although these are also imperforate and believed to be proofs. The 19p Woven Threads from the Workers' Tale set issued in May 1999 also exists missing the Queen's head, value and so on from a sheet affected by a dry print of the bronze colour.

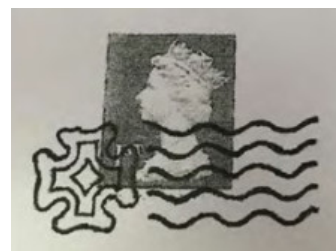
As to the status of Charlie's Genius – is it a missing colour error or proof? – there are a couple of conflicting indicators, but the probability is it's a colour proof. When compared closely to an issued stamp, the pale yellow background is considerably deeper and the image not as sharp suggesting printing took place on different equipment. Unusually, unless by design, certain colours are out of register resulting in a shadow-like effect (particularly noticeable around the eyes, eye-brows and hat). In the absence of other examples or provenance, the true nature of this stamp is likely to remain a mystery. So please drop us a line if you can add anything to this intriguing tale.

Tom Pierron sources errors and varieties for ZEBOOSE.COM

POSTMARKS

The end of the curse of the ballpoint pen?

In the January 2016 issue of *Stamp & Coin Mart* I made mention of a small wavy-line cancel that had begun to appear on mail during 2015, writes David Gwynn. It was used to cancel stamps on items of mail where the stamps had missed



cancellation during the sorting process. These were mostly 'flats', that is, those larger items of mail that required special sorting and handling. There will be those amongst you who will have received, in the past, catalogues from auction houses where the stamps were uncanceled. This must have been common enough for Royal Mail to realise that revenue was being lost when these stamps were re-used. In July 2014 a new Revenue Integrity Transformation Team was formed to address the problem of uncanceled stamps.

This team did not recommend a wholesale increase in the use of ballpoint pens to deface these uncanceled stamps. Instead trials were held at Banbury of new hand-stamp tools that would be used to cancel the stamps. Three types of trial 'tools' have been identified. One incorporates a 12mm high Maltese Cross with five 23mm long wavy lines alongside. This cancellation is illustrated here, enhanced a little to make it clearer to see. A second trial was identical in design but had a 10mm high Maltese Cross and wavy lines 19mm long. The third trial seems to be the one that was adopted and comprises five wavy lines. In the trial the wavy lines were 10mm in length, but the adopted cancellation has the lines at 18mm long. There is some evidence to suggest that three other designs were trialled at Banbury at the same time, but examples of these have not been seen. It is possible that the trial was concluded before these others were brought into use.

The trial at Banbury was considered a success and the chosen canceller was brought into use at other offices from

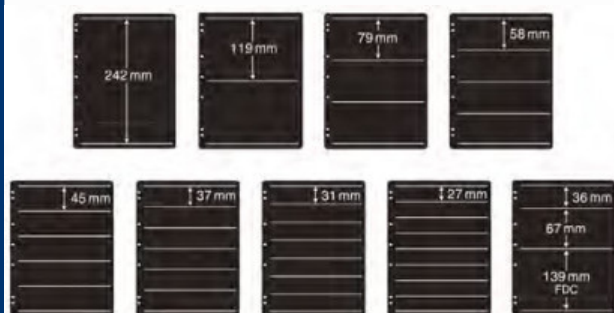
May 2015. However, the rolling out programme does not seem to have been comprehensive, and some offices do not yet seem to have them in use. It is known that Dartford in Kent received their 'tools' in early July, and if anyone can confirm other early dates of use from other offices, that would be very helpful.

For the technically minded, the little 'tool' is a Trodat Printy 4922 and the base has a cover that can be fitted to enable it to be carried in a pocket without smearing ink everywhere.



Thanks to the wonderful British Postmark Society Journal for help with this article.

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Buying British Stamps

Current Market Values



BUYING GB DECIMAL STAMPS 1971 TO 2015

(Always buying GB but do check website for latest prices prior to sending)

FACE VALUES (FV)	Buy % of FV	If Possible
Stamps 1p to 26p	48%	Sorted by value
Stamps 27p to 34p	53%	Sorted by value
Stamps 35p to 68p	57%	Sorted by value
Stamps 69p to 99p	63%	Sorted by value
£1, £1.10, £1.19, £1.30, £1.35, £1.41	70%	Sorted by value
£1.12, £1.28, £1.33, £1.47 & £1.52	65%	Sorted by value
Stamps £1.50 to £2.99	75%	Sorted by value
Stamps £3.00 to £10.00	78%	Sorted by value
U/M Decimal Collections	56%	Complete runs of stamps in stock books or stamp albums
Unsort lots of Bulk Postage	50%	Where we pay someone to sort it for you.
First (1st) Class NVI Stamps	56%	Commemoratives (lick and stick gum)
First (1st) Class NVI Stamps	65%	Commemoratives (self-adhesive gum)
First (1st) Class NVI Stamps	65%	Definitives (lick and stick gum)
First (1st) Class S/A NVI Stamps	70%	Definitives (self-adhesive gum)
Second (2nd) Class NVI Stamps	65%	Commemoratives (all types)
Second (2nd) Class NVI Stamps	67%	Definitives (lick and stick gum)
Second (2nd) Class S/A NVI Stamps	75%	Definitives (self-adhesive gum)
First Class LARGE NVI	75%	
Second Class LARGE NVI	75%	
Signed For & Special Delivery Stamps	70%	
Europe & Worldwide NVI Stamps	56%	All types
Presentation Packs	50%	from 1971 to 1990
Presentation Packs	55%	from 1991 to 2002
Presentation Packs	60%	from 2003 to 2013
Presentation Packs	65%	2014 & 2015
Prestige Booklets	48%	for books up to £5 face value
Prestige Booklets	56%	for books up to £5.01 to £10 face value
Prestige Booklets	60%	for books over £10 face value
Booklets with Stamps up to 27p	48%	folding & retail etc
Booklets with Stamps from 28p to 39p	55%	folding & retail etc
Booklets with Stamps from 40p to 68p	60%	folding & retail etc
Smiler Sheets	55%	Lick & Stick Gum
Smiler Sheets	65%	Self-adhesive Gum
ISLE OF MAN	30%	Tidy in sets or sheets, album

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Stablemates and rivals

In a special 'stamp sidelines' guide, David Bailey reports on how stamps and postal stationery have competed for custom – and attention – over the years and why pre-printed envelopes, postcards and ephemera can make intriguing additions to your collection

The 1d black and the Mulready postal stationery both became valid on the 6 May, 1840. Mulreadies were available both as envelopes and lettersheets, confusingly called 'covers' at the time, and in both 1d and 2d values. Pre-paid envelopes were made possible by the postal reforms of that year. Previously, postage had been charged according to the number of sheets in a letter; now, weight was the sole criterion. And Hill was convinced that the postal stationery format would be more popular.

However, the design was widely ridiculed and after six days Hill conceded that it was perhaps too fanciful for such a mundane item. The Mulreadies were discontinued in 1841. The envelopes were replaced by the 'Penny Pinks', where the 'stamp' was embossed into silk thread paper, using a die engraved by medallist William Wyon. This was a simple, functional product which was difficult to forge and proved popular. The lettersheets continued with a revised design, also using Dickinson silk thread paper, but this proved difficult to fold and, despite a change in colour in 1846 to a more fashionable azure shade, the line was discontinued in the 1860s.

Envelopes catch on

The penny post created a boom in written communications as the general public

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took up the letter writing habit. And a new market wanted a new look. The old style 'entire letter', as we call it now, began to look dated and not particularly private. Sales of envelopes boomed. In 1840, roughly one half of all mail carried used them; by 1850, the figure had risen to 5/6ths and a range of stationery manufacturers had stepped in to meet the demand. Prominent among them was the city firm of Thomas de la Rue, previously better known for paper hats and playing cards. De la Rue were researching and developing both gums and machinery for automation. By 1851, they were demonstrating a machine at the Great

An unused halfpenny brown postcard with advertisements on the reverse, created by the Anglo-Colonial Letter Co Ltd. Image courtesy of Bill Barrell

Exhibition which could cut, fold and gum 2,700 envelopes per hour, while needing only one man to run it.

Now, the penny pinks had competition. They were sold at a small premium, a farthing or less, and were simple to produce. These factors made them more profitable than stamps. But the product was ungummed, rather basic and suffered in comparison with the envelopes available from the private sector.

Sales began to fall. In 1846, the post office was selling nearly 5 million 1d pinks a quarter. By 1849, this had dropped to under 4 million.

Postal stationery envelopes were supplied ready-gummed from 1850 and the silk thread paper was dropped in 1857. But in 1854, stamps had taken another step forward. With the perforated penny 'stars', the stamped envelope became the norm for all regular correspondence. However, the printed envelope continued to serve a wide range of specialised needs, including official issues for government departments and postage for troops overseas.

Registered Post

The long-established practice of registration for valuable items was



A 1910 envelope sent by registered mail from Chiswick to Malta, bearing two postal stationery cutouts plus a halfpenny stamp. Image courtesy of Bill Barrell



discontinued with the introduction of the penny post. However, it was re-introduced in 1841 and cost 1/-. The rate was reduced in 1848 to 6d and 1862 to 4d but in 1878, a 2d rate was introduced with a limit of £2 compensation for any loss. This was specifically designed for small amounts of cash and was an ideal niche market for postal stationery. The inland registration fee would be the same however heavy the letter was, and the envelope needed to be made from a tough, linen-backed paper. The initial problem was that the thick paper caused excessive wear on the dies, a problem that was eventually solved by printing the 'stamp' on the sealing flap. Registered envelopes were introduced in 1878 and continued up until the 1990s, to form a vast collecting field in themselves.

Privately printed stationery

From 1855 to 1873, people have their own stocks of paper diestamped to order (STO) at Somerset House. These used the existing dies for the 6d and 1/- embossed stamps and a range of newly-created dies for all the other rates. This enabled businesses to produce envelopes and parcel labels to suit their own requirements. Any number or combination of dies could

A 1903 registered envelope privately produced by the London and River Plate Bank, sent from London to Manchester. *Image courtesy of Bill Barrell*

A penny pink envelope from 1844 cancelled by the distinctive Coventry Maltese Cross. *Image courtesy of Bill Barrell*

A halfpenny brown newspaper wrapper from London to Antwerp, originally enclosing *Herald of Peace and International Arbitration* magazine and cancelled by the newspaper branch. *Image courtesy of Bill Barrell*



be used for a specific rate; a single cover with seven dies has been recorded but anything over three is rare. However, this is one of the few areas where postal stationery was produced especially for collectors. Enterprising stamp dealers commissioned various combinations of different dies to be sold on to their customers as 'unusual frankings'.

Advertising rings

This additional embellishment was available from 1857 to 1888 and features the company's name set around the 'stamp'. Some were applied at Somerset House while others were added later in a separate printing. Though called 'advertising rings' today, their purpose may have included theft prevention as well. Today, WH Smith is probably the easiest name to find.

Postcards

Postcards were dreamed up in what is now Germany by a Dr Heinrich von Stefan, but they first appeared in Austria on 1 October, 1865. They met the need for a cheaper postage rate for non-confidential correspondence and were an immediate success.

The idea of a cheap, basic medium

of correspondence coincided nicely with the post office's own plans for a halfpenny rate for newspapers and book parcels. So while Perkins Bacon were developing the halfpenny stamps, De la Rue were asked to quote for printing 20 million copies of a British postcard. They ended up with an initial order for 100 million and the cards went on sale in October, 1870. Meanwhile, Perkins Bacon were asked for nearly 600 million Bantams, which went on sale on the same day. But demand never came up to expectations.

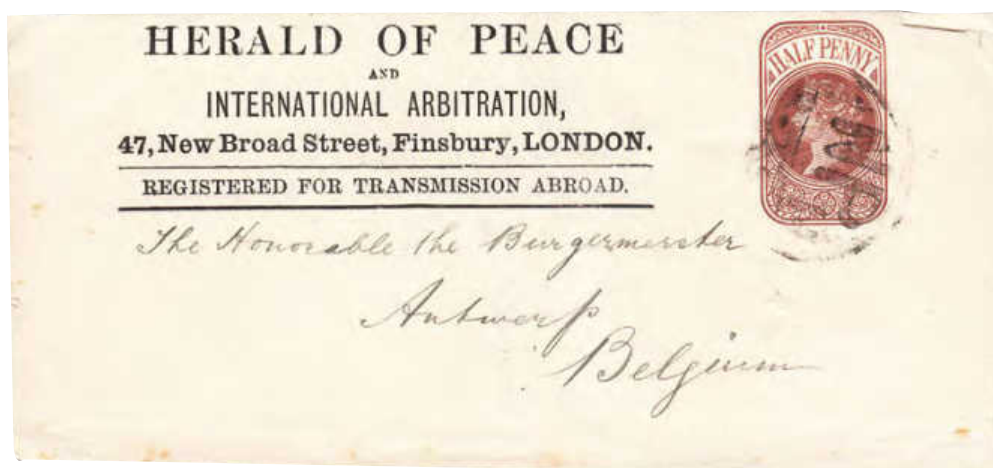
Private postcards

From 1872, postcards could also be stamped to order for use in the UK and from 1875 there was also an overseas rate. This meant that businesses could create reply-paid forms which were tailored to their own needs. It also represented a cheap way of promoting a product, a service or a single event like an auction. Literally millions were produced and can be collected for themselves or as an interesting adjunct to a thematic collection.

Other entrepreneurs went further and sold advertising space on the back of their cards. This would defray the cost of printing and postage while leaving (some) space on the back for a message.

Newspaper wrappers

These appeared from 1 October, 1870 to the mid 1970s and were the main reason for the low uptake of halfpenny stamps. A single sheet of paper could carry the newspaper's masthead, the franking stamp and gum for sealing the wrapper and they could be supplied in bulk. So as well as newspapers, they were also used by a wide range of other companies for their latest catalogues, price lists and other printed matter.



What is postal stationery?

Postal Stationery can be simply defined as any printed communication where pre-payment of postage is indicated by a printed device rather than an adhesive stamp, and a single article cannot hope to cover all the all the different types available. However, there is an even wider definition which includes such things as Postal Orders and Certificates of Posting to form what amounts to a parallel universe with the collecting of stamps.

Airmail: the return of the lettersheet

When airmails came in, a typical writing paper of the time would have a weight of 70 to 90gsm: this was fine for surface mail, but in the air, every fraction of an ounce counted. There was also the matter of airmail postage rates; people knew the surface rates off by heart. But between 1947 and 1991, the world beyond Europe was split into three different zones at different prices, ideal for a single lightweight sheet that could go anywhere.

The first Air letter was sold in 1948 and the series has continued up until the present day with Christmas and commemorative lettersheets using the same designs as stamps, plus unique definitive issues too: the airmail stamps we never had.

Postal stationery – in and out of favour with collectors

In the early days, postal stationery cut-outs were collected as eagerly as stamps. However, as the 'golden age' of stamp collecting dawned, the stationery began to look drab and uninteresting. And so for most of the 20th century all the attention was on the stamps. This was when the research was done, the new issues tracked, the catalogues compiled and the market prices set. It was also when philatelic forgers set out to deceive the unwary. Postal stationery missed out on all this. Envelopes, postcards and other formats were being issued all over the world, but there's no Part One for postal stationery. On the positive side, no country issued postal stationery just to appeal to collectors and today, market prices are driven solely by collectors' demand.

Postal stationery slipped back into the spotlight with the collecting of postal history and you could say that serious study only started after the war. The first complete catalogue of GB postal stationery, by Alan Huggins, was not published until 1970. A simplified, updated version called *Collect British Postal Stationery* appeared

in 2007. This was compiled by Alan Huggins and Colin Baker and provided a 'shot in the arm' for postal stationery collecting. The 2007 printing quickly sold out and secondhand copies are widely sought after. Continental collectors are more fortunate: Michel's 'Ganzsachen' catalogues are pretty well up to date.

Collecting now

Today collectors focus on entire letters rather than cut-outs. Purists collect mint examples. But when used, postal stationery has the added interest of postal markings and often, additional stamps to pay the necessary rate. There is also a sub-branch of stationery where the 'stamps' have been cut out of postal stationery cards and stuck onto letters instead of stamps; this was made legal in 1845 but disallowed in 1870 when postcards and newspaper wrappers were introduced. However, it was made legal again from January 1905.

Add in the private frankings, advertising envelopes and overseas mail and you have a vast collecting area to explore and one where prices are still reasonable. A Victorian penny pink in good condition should cost around £5. If you have got all the classic GB stamps you are likely to get and finding new issues too much to keep up with, this could be a fresh new direction to go in.

Beyond GB, almost every stamp issuing entity has also produced postal stationery with a staggering variety of forms and functions. This is a natural extension to 'one-country' collecting and club magazines are reporting new discoveries in almost every issue. Keen collectors should also join the British Postal Stationery Society which covers all fields.

Stamp collectors are used to collecting 'against the catalogue'. This is less of an option when catalogues are so hard to come by. So why not dive in, check out the dealers' websites and bargain boxes at fairs, and see what you come up with?



A rare 2½d Lake envelope from 1886 with a blue advertising ring for Browne and Rosenheim, addressed to Montauban, France. Image courtesy of Andrew G Lajer



1885 Penny pink Newspaper Wrapper with an advertising ring for W. H. Smith, addressed to H.M.S. "Neptune" Madeira and cancelled by a Foreign branch handstamp. Image courtesy of Andrew G Lajer



The halfpenny purple postcard, used on 1 October, 1870, the first day of issue. Image courtesy of Bill Barrell



A 3d red-brown registered envelope to Switzerland, with an additional franking of 4d to make 5d postage and 2d registration. Unusual

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500 years of postal history

This month, Royal Mail celebrates a landmark anniversary of 500 years of a regular, organised postal service in Britain. Six new stamps and a miniature sheet tell the story of how a formal postal network was established and expanded over five centuries in a fast-changing world

Royal Mail has taken the knighthood of Sir Brian Tuke, Henry VIII's Master of the Posts, in 1516 as the starting point for its 500-year journey through postal history. From the high-risk ocean trips of packet ships to the establishment of the mail coach, a favourite target of highwaymen, we are taken on a visual journey through the growth of Britain's mail service.

The first stamp features a portrait of Britain's first Master of the Posts, Sir Brian Tuke, with a background of a letter from Tuke to Cromwell, King Henry VIII's Chief Minister. Tuke is recognised as one of the founding fathers of Britain's postal system because of his role of Master of the Posts, which gave him the authority to set up a system of postal communication throughout

The six stamps cover a range of periods and postal-related subjects. An additional stamp, recreating the design of the Penny Red stamp, will be issued in a prestige stamp book and other products, to be issued on 18 February (see news story on page 11 for further details)



Henry VIII's kingdom. Instead of relying upon the system of using whichever horses were available to carry the mail, Tuke established post towns throughout the country which each kept a stable of horses ready to carry the post whenever and wherever needed.

The portrait, by Hans Holbein, was painted in either 1527/28 or 1532/34, and shows Tuke in his sixth decade. By this point in his career, he not only held the role of Master of the Posts but was also treasurer and secretary of the royal household – a position he held until his death in 1545.

Once a regular land-based postal system had been established, the next

major landmark was the creation of the packetship post, which allowed mail to be sent overseas to the farthest outposts of the burgeoning British Empire. The 1st class stamp shows the painting *Mail Packet off Eastbourne* by Captain Victor Howes, a clipper ship captain who painted ships after his retirement from a life at sea.

The first recorded packet ship travelled from Harwich to Holland in 1660, reflecting the importance of the Netherlands as a trading partner. The packet ships were regularly attacked and robbed, and records exist in the The Postal Museum (formerly the British Postal Museum & Archive) detailing compensation made to packet ship sailors for the loss of a limb in service. Royal Mail Ships was established in 1840, allowing both mail and passengers to travel around the world in record time.

Until the nineteenth century, the postal system was used mainly by the wealthy and influential, due to the high costs involved in sending

Stamp details

Issue date: 17 February, 2016
Design: Atelier Works
Format: Over-square portrait
Size: 35mm (w) x 37mm (h)
Printer: Cartor
Process: Lithography
Perforations: 14.5 x 14
Phosphor: Bars as appropriate
Gum: PVA
1st - Sir Brian Tuke
1st - Packetship
1st - Penfold Pillar Box
£1.52 - Riverpost girl
£1.52 - Mailcoach
£1.52 - Medway Mail Centre



and receiving mail. The third stamp, another 1st class value, takes us into the era of a postal system accessible to all with the creation of the pillar box, bringing the post to the streets of Britain. The pillar box shown on the stamp is a Penfold Pillar Box, named after its creator J W Penfold. This distinctive hexagonal postbox was manufactured in three different sizes beginning in 1866, and remained in production for fifteen years.

The background of the stamp has a letter written by Anthony Trollope proposing pillar boxes in St Peter's Port, Guernsey, in 1851. Trollope's proposal was accepted and in 1853, three pillar boxes were installed on Jersey, with six introduced on Guernsey a year later.

The River Thames has long been at the centre of Britain's history, and the next stamp (£1.52) recognises this waterway's importance as a means of communication. The stamp features a photograph of a Riverpost Girl at work, with the smiling worker rowing a boat which is carrying a bundle of mail. The Riverpost service operated in the Pool of London area of the Thames, until it was discontinued in 1952.

Perhaps one of the most recognisable symbols of postal history is the mail coach (shown on a £1.52 stamp), established by businessman John Palmer in 1784. The first service ran between Bristol and London, taking just thirteen hours for a journey which would normally last 36 hours



The accompanying four-stamp miniature sheet features classic GPO posters and will be of interest to those interested in graphic design as well as postal historians



when the mail was carried by public stagecoach. Within a year, the service had been adopted on a national basis, with mail coaches running from London to Norwich, Liverpool, Leeds, Dover, Exeter, Worcester, Gloucester, Holyhead and Carlisle.

Horse-drawn mail coaches were a fast and efficient means of delivering the mail and were used until the 1850s, when Britain's growing railway system offered a faster and cheaper way of moving post around the country.

The final stamp (£1.52), brings the story of the mail bang up to date. The image featured is a photo of the new Medway Mail Centre which opened in 2012. The £70 million facility, in Rochester, Kent, replaced four existing mail centres in Kent and features the latest mail sorting equipment, keeping Britain at the forefront of postal communication, as it has been for five centuries.

Associated products

The Royal Mail 500 stamps are accompanied by a portfolio of associated products which further develop the story of Britain's postal system. Two handstamps are available for the stamps and miniature sheet: a Tallent's House, Edinburgh postmark showing a map of Britain with lines extending in four directions to show the spread of the postal system, and a London WC1 postmark chosen as the location of The Postal Museum, showing a quote from Master of the Posts Brian Tuke: 'The King's pleasure is that posts be better appointed and laid in all places most expedient'.

Also available are a Royal Mail 500 presentation pack, miniature sheet, first day cover, first day envelope and stamp cards. Five extra products will be issued the day after the release of the stamps, celebrating another postal history landmark, the 175th anniversary of the Penny Red. The range comprises a prestige stamp book, prestige stamp book first day cover, a prestige stamp book first day envelope, 175th anniversary of the Penny Red generic stamp sheet and 175th anniversary of the Penny Red stamp book.

The anniversary is also celebrated with two products available only from the Stampex event in London this month – a Royal Mail 500 miniature sheet with Stampex overprint in a limited edition of 7,500 and a miniature sheet stamp card with Stampex overprint in a limited edition of 3,000.

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*Free presentation album shown in image is for purchases of Penny Reds over £100.
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A coronation that was not to be

As we continue to reflect on the tumultuous 'Year of the Three Kings' and its effect on British stamps, Paul Brittain turns the clock back to 1936 and examines the work on preparing a Coronation issue for King Edward VIII

It was merely days after the death of King George V on 20 January, 1936 that suggestions were forthcoming that there should be special stamps to mark the Coronation of King Edward VIII in 1937. There had not been such an issue for King Edward VII and King George V, and it was only in the latter reign that the British Post Office had produced special stamps, so such thoughts were perhaps surprising. One suggestion came just

ten days after the Accession from the Minister of Works who put forward an idea of a set up to one shilling, featuring the King in the uniforms of the armed forces, the Coronation Chair and interior of Westminster Abbey, the Royal coat-of-arms, Royal residences, and a map of the world highlighting the British Empire. He went even further as to suggest a £1 stamp issued after the event showing the King in the Coronation robes. These were very



One of a group of initial rough designs by Harrison and Sons, this showing Tower Bridge, submitted on 29 July, 1936

progressive thoughts, given that no pictorial designs had, at that juncture, been issued by the British Post Office.

During an audience with the King on 10 March, the Postmaster-General (PMG) put forward the idea of a Coronation set. The King agreed that a set depicting Royal castles would be acceptable. Eleven days later, during a further audience during which the PMG showed the King the ideas for the initial stamps of the reign, the matter of pictorial design for the Coronation was again raised. This time the question was the inclusion of the King's portrait. The feeling was that including the portrait might spoil pictorial designs: the King agreed, and stated that the portrait could be omitted if better designs resulted.

However, at this juncture there was no more consideration given to Coronation stamps. The priority was to issue the first definitives, designated as the 'Accession' issue. These would be replaced by the Coronation stamps for three months, and would be followed by a 'Permanent' issue.

Come June work on the 'Accession' issue was virtually complete, so thoughts could turn to the Coronation. The Director General of the Post Office felt that it would be appropriate to have three stamps showing the King in the uniforms of

Edward VIII – Projected Coronation Issue

"A" – full frame design on ordinary Royal Cypher paper

Welsh Guards portrait



Using developments of some of the frames produced in July, Harrisons began work on a possible Coronation issue. One theme was the portrait of the King in the uniforms of the various services but these were not available. So they used the old Cecil portrait in Welsh Guards uniform and the Bertram Park portrait in that of the Seaforth Highlanders. Five of the former and one of the latter were essayed in four colours on 7 September 1936.

Initial essays by Harrison and Sons produced on 7 September showing the King in the uniform of the Welsh Guards



the three armed services, the Army, Navy and Air Force ($\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d and $1\frac{1}{2}$ d), and two higher value stamps ($2\frac{1}{2}$ d and 2s 6d) depicting royal castles. The brief was given to Harrison and Sons, the printers of Britain's low-value stamps using photogravure, to come up with some ideas, although it was pointed out that one of the higher values might be a 2s 6d value printed by intaglio (line-engraved).

An immediate need was photographs of the King in the three uniforms. There existed one by Bertram Park in the uniform of Colonel in Chief of the Seaforth Highlanders (Army). A Naval photograph by Hugh Cecil was available, but was not felt to be sharp enough for reproduction. None existed of the King in RAF uniform.

Rough designs

On 29 July Harrison provided a series of fifteen rough designs, some using the Seaforth Highlanders portrait, others the portrait by Hugh Cecil that had been chosen for the 'Accession' series.

From left: initial essays of 7 September showing the King in the uniform of the Welsh Guards (blue and red essays) and the uniform of the Seaforth Highlanders (green and brown)

From left: further essays from Harrison and Sons produced on 23 September, featuring the King in the uniform of the Welsh Guards (brown) and Seaforth Highlanders (green); and essays produced on 23 September at the request of the Postmaster General, with the Cecil portrait of the King as used for the 'Accession' issue

Among the pictorial suggestions were views of Windsor Castle, Balmoral Castle, the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the Houses of Parliament, Nelson's Column and the Tower of London. Two of these were taken beyond the rough stage: those depicting Windsor Castle and the Tower of London.

If nothing else, these ideas helped concentrate minds at the Post Office. It was clear that existing photographs of royal castles were not suitable for use on stamps. There needed to be photographs taken of the King in the uniforms of the three services, if this approach was adopted. Another possibility was to use the head being adapted by the Royal Mint for use on coinage and medals.

The rough designs from Harrison threw up another question: the size of the stamps. The company had chosen a size larger than that used for definitives, as it was not best for pictorial designs. Another option was twice definitive size, as used for the King George V Silver Jubilee set. These both had the

advantage of printing in sheets of 240 or 120 respectively, thus easier for accounting. Two alternatives were considered: the so-called 'Australian' size of 1.2ins by 0.95ins, and that used by the Crown Agents for its Silver Jubilee omnibus series, of 1.6ins by 1.1ins. Harrison pointed out that, deviating from sizes that had been already used would require new perforating combs, and these took time to produce. Also, the larger the stamp, the fewer to a sheet, and thus the longer it would take to print the required quantity, again pushing up costs. However, the company had already indicated that as long as the designs were agreed by October there should be no problem in having the stamps ready on time.

Preparations continued. It was agreed that photographs of the royal castles should be taken by the GPO Film Unit, for which permission was needed from the office of the Lord Chamberlain. This was received for Buckingham Palace, St James's Palace, Windsor Castle and Holyroodhouse, but not for Balmoral Castle, it being a private residence of the sovereign. Obtaining photographs of the King in the various uniforms had to be put on hold as he was rather pre-occupied during the summer of 1936.

No doubt wishing to advance the issue, Harrison produced further designs as essays on 7 and 23 September, based on two of the portraits to hand, in the uniforms of the Welsh Guards, by Hugh Cecil, and of the Seaforth Highlanders. Various frame styles were offered, while the designs featured the year '1937'. By this time the 'Accession' definitives had appeared: these had received some criticism, although generally had been well received. So, while the Post Office did not wish to go down the road of inviting artists to submit design ideas,



the Postmaster General felt it prudent to seek the advice of the Royal Fine Arts Commission on the work so far undertaken. It offered detailed comments on the essays prepared by Harrison.

For his part, the Postmaster General felt that having photographs of the King in the various uniforms was proving highly unlikely as there seemed no opportunity to take the necessary photographs until at least October. He therefore asked the printers to prepare essays featuring the portrait of the King as used for the 'Accession' issue, these being produced on 23 September.

The PMG's view was that there should be four low values featuring a portrait of the King, these stamps to be of the 'Australian' size, with a higher, one shilling (rather than 2s 6d as previously suggested), value depicting possibly Windsor Castle or St James's Palace. Nevertheless, a final approach was made on 29 September to see if the King would be prepared to sit for further photographs: no reply was received. In the meantime, Harrison ordered two perforating machines for the 'Australian' size: the outcome would be sheets of 160 stamps delivered to post offices.

An alternative portrait

Thoughts therefore had turned to an alternative portrait. At the start of the process to develop stamp designs for the new reign, the Post Office had approached the Royal Mint to see what work had been undertaken with regard to a portrait for new coinage.

At the time the King had not approved such a portrait. A fresh approach was made to the Royal Mint bringing the reply that the King had approved a portrait by Humphrey Paget showing the King uncrowned that would be used for official medals.

A plaster cast of the Paget head was sent to Harrison, from which the company was able to prepare an essay as a 1½d value in green showing the portrait against a vertically ribbed background. This was not particularly satisfactory, so further essays were produced with the portrait in an oval: these further essays were produced in the four colours needed for the low value definitives. The PMG made enquiries to see if the King would approve the use of the Paget head on the stamps. The reply, received on 4 November, came as a surprise. The King suggested an alternative portrait, one featuring the King crowned that was to be used for Coronation medals, and which had been produced by Percy Metcalfe. In fact, there were two versions: one showing no signs of a uniform at the neck that would be used for the official medals, and another showing part of a uniform that would be used for the medals put on general sale. Also surprisingly, the King advised that if these further ideas proved unacceptable, he would be prepared to sit for a new portrait. A plaster cast of this crowned head

was produced by the Royal Mint.

In the meantime work continued using the uncrowned head. When examining the essays the Royal Fine Arts Commission had expressed the view that an expert calligrapher should be asked to look at the designs, and to this end the Post Office approached Eric Gill. His suggestions took a simpler approach: one of his designs was based on that with the portrait in an oval that had been prepared by Harrison. Gill's second design showed the portrait within a thin white rectangular frame. Essays of these were produced on 12 November. Two weeks later further essays were prepared showing slight modifications to the background – either toned or solid – of the second Gill approach. Gill also worked on a design using the Metcalfe crowned head, also essayed on 27 November. However, Gill was never happy at using a photographic portrait, and always felt that a drawn head was preferable.

The essays of Gill's work were shown to the Royal Fine Arts Commission on 30 November. The view was that the crowned head was preferable, although,

Below, from left:
essay using the Paget
'uncrowned' head of
the King, and further
essays produced on
12 October





as this had been produced for use on medals, when printed as a stamp some of the detail was lost. Further essays were therefore prepared and were submitted on 8 December.

Work had also continued on possible pictorial designs, and various essays were produced. These arrived in late October and early November and depicted St James's Palace, Windsor Castle, the Tower of London and Tower Bridge. These were found unsuitable or inappropriate by both the PMG and Royal Fine Arts Commission. Alternatives were suggested such as Buckingham Palace, Caernarvon

From left: initial designs prepared by Eric Gill, the second image featuring the addition of an oval frame; essay produced on 27 November using the 'crowned' head by Percy Metcalfe; essay of 23 October depicting St James's Palace

Below: bromide of a 6d value for the 'Permanent' issue, of which essays were produced on 8 October and 12 October

Edward VIII – Projected Coronation Issue



Further pictorial essays based on G.P.O. Film Unit photographs were prepared in three drab colours for a 1s value on 12 November, 1936. Tower Bridge was not a suitable subject and other subjects and photographs were sought but no further pictorial essays were produced because of the abdication on 10 December.

Above: pictorial designs of 12 November depicting Windsor Castle (two different views), Tower Bridge and the Tower of London

Edward VIII – Projected Permanent Issue

23 July bromide



Doubly fugitive ink essays – 8 October



RC Paper Esparto Paper Coated Paper

On 23 July Harrison's supplied a bromide for a 6d stamp (No. 74) based on a coin, oak leaves and the Cecil portrait. This was improved in the detail of the oak leaves and the substitution of the effigy head. Essays were produced on 8 October in doubly fugitive ink (for the 6d value) on different papers.

Castle and Holyroodhouse, plus better views of St James's Palace.

Interestingly, it seems some consideration was also being given to the subsequent 'Permanent' set. A bromide exists of a 6d value based on a coin with the Hugh Cecil portrait as used for the 'Accession' issue and oak leaves. Subsequently a similar essay was produced but using the uncrowned Paget head. However, no further progress

was made on either the Coronation or 'Permanent' issues.

The reason is well known: on 11 December King Edward VIII abdicated. The Coronation still took place on 12 May, 1937, but of King George VI. A Coronation stamp did appear the following day – but that is another story.

Information and illustrations from the records kept at The Postal Museum, previously The British Postal Museum & Archive. Images courtesy of The Postal Museum, copyright Royal Mail.

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Commemorative Jersey Stamps



RAF Search & Rescue - 75th Anniversary

Issue date: 6 February 2016

Six stamps and a Souvenir Sheetlet commemorate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the RAF Search and Rescue Service in 1941.

The Royal Legacy of Queen Victoria

King George V Issue date: 9 March 2016

George V, Queen Victoria's second-eldest grandson, came to the throne on 6 May 1910 following the death of his father, King Edward VII. Featuring images sourced from the National Portrait Gallery, six stamps and a Miniature Sheet illustrate a timeline of King George V's reign.



Post & Go - The Crest of Jersey

Issue date: 17 February 2016

Six Post & Go stamps depict the Crest of Jersey in a palette of colours chosen to reflect a contemporary representation for the Islanders of today. The names of all twelve Island parishes are printed in the background waves on the stamps.



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ISLE OF MAN

Year of the Monkey

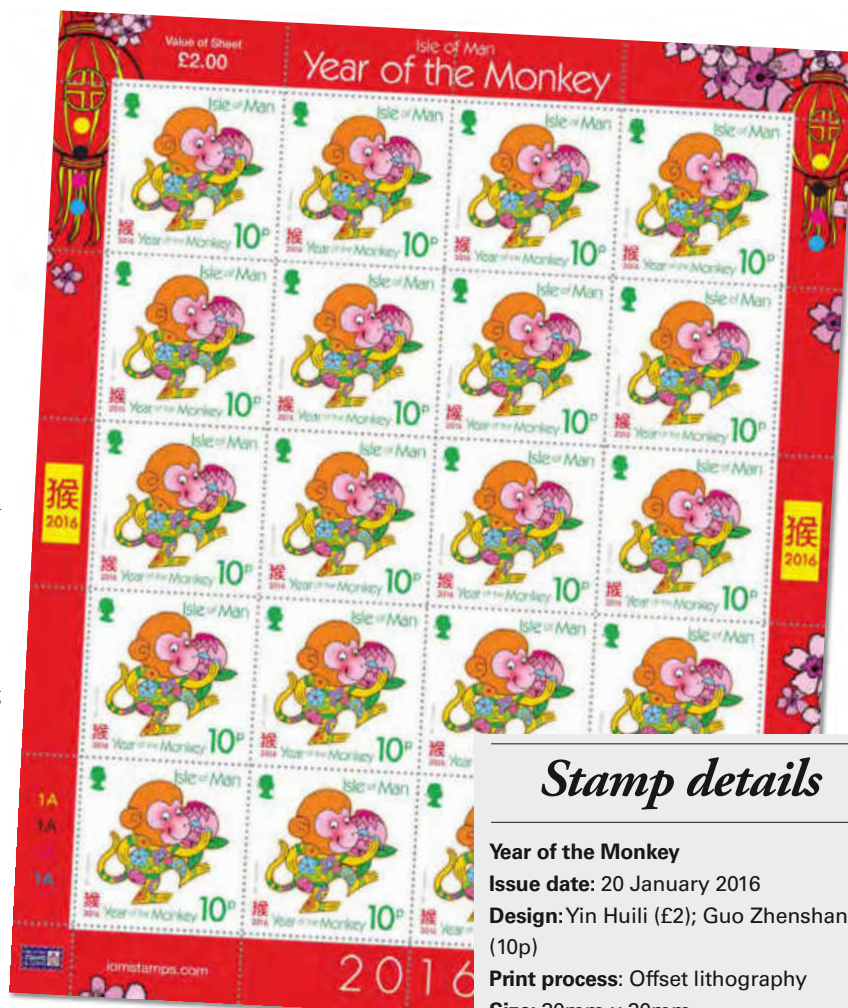
The Isle of Man demonstrates its growing relationship with the people of China through a colourful miniature sheet to celebrate Year of the Monkey

The 1.3 billion strong population of China and the 85,000 people who live on the Isle of Man may not at first glance seem to have much in common, but for the past four years, the two have been establishing trading links, a partnership recognised in Isle of Man Post Office's first miniature sheet of 2016, celebrating the Chinese Year of the Monkey.

The colourful sheet has a striking red background, in recognition of the fact that red is considered a lucky colour in China, signifying good fortune. The sheet has been designed by two Chinese artists, the 10p stamp showing a cheeky looking monkey and the £2 stamp a mother with its baby. Both stamps show a Chinese pattern with a background of Chinese lanterns and a red monkey perched on a Chinese Blossom tree.

Chinese New Year 2016 begins on 8 February and ends on 22 February, 2017 according to the Chinese Lunar calendar. It is believed that people born under the sign have personalities that are smart, quick-witted, frank, optimistic, ambitious and adventurous. Monkeys are also believed to be well suited to careers in accounting and banking, science, engineering, and even film directing.

Maxine Cannon, Isle of Man Stamps and Coins General Manager, said: 'We are delighted to present this special miniature sheet which celebrates the beginning of the Lunar New Year, the most important traditional celebration for Chinese families and a time for many traditions. The Chinese zodiac is based on a twelve-year cycle, each year in the sequence is related to an animal sign and this year we celebrate Year of the Monkey.'



Stamp details

Year of the Monkey

Issue date: 20 January 2016

Design: Yin Huili (£2); Guo Zhenshan (10p)

Print process: Offset lithography

Size: 30mm x 30mm

Format: Miniature sheet of two stamps



 GUERNSEY

A haven for nature

The Longis Nature Reserve, the largest terrestrial reserve on Alderney and a haven for the island's wildlife with its thirteen varied habitats, is the subject of six new Alderney stamps.

Stamp details

Longis Nature Reserve

Issue date: 17 February, 2016

Design: Two Degrees North

Printer: BDT International

Print process: Offset lithography

Size: 39.56mm x 25.73mm (stamp);
100mm x 140mm (sheet)

Perforations: 13

The stamps, produced by Guernsey Post, feature six of the hundreds of species which can be found at the Longis Reserve, many of which can't be found in mainland Britain. The species featured are the Meadow Pippit (62p) which is a common Alderney bird; the Granville Fritillary (56p) a butterfly which is classed as 'vulnerable' and can be found only on Alderney and the Isle of Wight; and the Greater White-Toothed Shrew (77p) a regular prey of the island's kestrels, buzzards and barn owls. The 68p value features the Sand Crocus, which can be found on Alderney's coastal grassland, which forms part of the Longis Nature Reserve.

The final two stamps feature Eelgrass

(42p), an underwater flowering plant which is classed as 'near threatened' and supports a range of marine life on sand, mud and gravel; and Yarrow Broomrape (57p), a purple coloured grass which is a common sight in Alderney yet rare in mainland Britain.

Bridget Yabsley, acting head of philatelic at Guernsey Post, said of the stamps: 'Managed by the Alderney Wildlife Trust, Longis Reserve covers around 105 hectares of public and private land, making it the island's largest terrestrial reserve. Its thirteen habitats support a huge diversity of species, which are able to find shelter, food and breeding sites, and I'm delighted that we've been able to feature some of them on our stamps.'

 JERSEY

Jersey's tribute to the stamp collecting king

King George V, grandson of Queen Victoria and grandfather of the current queen, is the subject of Jersey Post's new Royal Legacy of Queen Victoria issue, which comprises six stamps and a miniature sheet.

Born on 3 June, 1865 and named George Frederick Ernest Albert, the future George V started his career in the Royal Navy but found himself first in line to the throne after the untimely

death of his elder brother Prince Albert Victor in 1892 at the age of 28. A year later, George married Princess Victoria Mary of Teck and they became Duke and Duchess of York and had six children.

George V has a strong connection to Jersey, being only the second reigning monarch to visit the island (in 1921) a landmark event which was marked by the creation of the Jersey royal crest, which is still used on the island's coat of arms today.



Stamp details

King George V

Issue date: 9 March 2016

Design: True North

Printer: by Joh. Enschedé Security Print, The Netherlands

Print process: in four colour process offset lithography and gold metallic ink

Size: 40mm x 30mm (stamps); 81mm x 116mm (miniature sheet)

The set of six stamps illustrates a timeline of George V's reign (1910-1936) which spanned some of the most dramatic events in world history, including the First World War, the Russian Revolution, the rise of socialism and the beginning of the decline of the British Empire. The miniature sheet and the sixth stamp feature a painting of King George by Jersey artist John Saint Helier Lander which was painted in 1934 and hangs in the Victoria College in Jersey. It shows the king in a formal setting, wearing his military medals and is one of a total of 439 portraits for which George V sat during his lifetime.

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Alderney: Longis Nature Reserve

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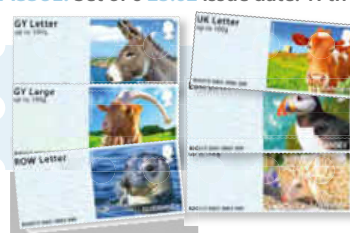


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Why Collect... Tristan da Cunha?

An argument for considering this British Overseas territory is that it is both so unusual and so out of the way, that its stamps are one of the few ways you might learn about it. Jeff Dugdale and Richard Hewitt shed more light on the remote south Atlantic island

Tristan is the remotest inhabited island in the world with population of just under 300 souls, a fact publicised on a 'Guinness World Records' mini-sheet from 2003.

As shown in this sheet and the accompanying World Geographical Records set, the main island where the inhabitants live, in a settlement known as Edinburgh of the Seven Seas, is actually the top of a volcano. There are four smaller uninhabited islands within twenty miles, including Inaccessible and Nightingale, and Gough where ten people work on the South African weather station there. The nearest land to Tristan is St Helena 1,434 miles to the north east, then Cape Town 1,511 miles eastward and Montevideo 2,123 to the west,

Above, from left: 1952 the first stamps used were overprinted St Helena issues; 1954 first 'Tristan da Cunha' stamps; 1996 Building of New Harbour showing RMS *St Helena*; 1999 WWF endangered species set

Read about Richard Hewitt's travels to Tristan on page 14

as illustrated on a 1991 mini-sheet commemorating the maiden voyage of the new unique cargo-passenger ship the RMS *St Helena*.

First discovered in 1506 by Portuguese explorer Tristão da Cunha, and landed upon in 1643, Tristan became a base for whaling ships in the early 1790s and a short-lived garrison was set up in 1816 as a support base in case the French tried to rescue the imprisoned Napoleon from St Helena. By 1832 the population had risen to 32.

The first mail known consists of two letters from whalers in 1836 and 1843; in the following century and a half only a further handful of letters were sent. Tristan's first set of stamps, in 1952, comprised a full price range of the 1938 St Helena pictorial definitive overprinted. Before this various cachets were used over British stamps, often franked 'PAQUEBOT'. The first full issue of 'Tristan' pictorials (½d to 10/-) came on 2 January, 1954 each design giving an impression of the geography of the island or a flavour of day-to-day island life, such as the 3d value illustrating lobster fishing as the main industry.

The next set six years later concentrates entirely on local marine life with the 3d showing the local crawfish. But the following year, on

10 October, 1961, a cataclysmic event occurred when the volcano erupted and the population was hastily evacuated to England. Three months later a Royal Society expedition returned to study the island and in early September the situation was considered safe; a dozen islanders returned to make preparations for the remainder with a further fifty arriving in April 1963, an event marked with a full set of St Helena overprints.

As you will have gathered the islands are famous for their wildlife as a 1999 World Wildlife Fund set featuring endangered species illustrates.

Marketing postage stamps is a significant financial aspect of the island, with orders made through the internet, so in collecting this interesting territory you are supporting a very remote community. However, most people (excepting one of the writers of this article, who has visited twice in 2011 and 2013, so becoming one of the first passengers in well over a year, see page 14) simply would not dream of trying to get there. And even if you do, landing on the island is not guaranteed, requiring calm conditions and transit from passing ships possible only via smaller Zodiac boats as referenced in a 1996 stamp showing the RMS *St Helena* lying off the New Harbour.

Fact file

First issue: 1952 St Helena overprints

Currency: £ sterling

Typical current annual output: around six sets each containing four or five stamps

Website: www.tristandc.com/postoffice.php



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Deciphering Turkey's 'Tughra' stamps

The first stamps of what later became Turkey present many challenges to the collector, but as this exclusive British Library Philatelic Collections guide reveals, forming a collection of the 1863 stamps can also be hugely rewarding

The Ottoman Empire's complex first stamp issue of 1863 provides the collector with a real challenge, with many varieties to pursue, and a design which is in stark contrast to the stamps of Western nations such as Great Britain. While literature on the stamps has been published over the years, there are no archived records

from the time of the printing and so it is stamp collectors who have provided much of the information we hold today. No wonder philatelist Mehmet Basaran's 2007 study of the stamps was sub-titled 'one man's journey into the unknown'.

Our own journey begins in the 18th century, long before the first Ottoman stamps were issued, when a number of countries, including

Constantinople, pictured some time between 1860 and 1890 (Library of Congress, LC-USZ62-106150)

Russia, France and Britain, operated post offices within the Ottoman Empire, allowing postal and trade links to and from Constantinople. It was only in 1840 that the Empire established its own postal service, reportedly unreliable and slow compared to other nations of the time, and stamps followed two decades later.

The four stamps issued by the



Ottoman Turks, in January 1863, are known as the 'Tughra' issue, thanks to the distinctive seal featured in the centre of the design. Actually the signature of the Sultan of the time, Abdulaziz Kahn, the design was preferred to any portrait or pictorial, since the Koran teaches that pictures are vain. It was only in 1913 that Turkey issued stamps showing buildings such as Constantinople's GPO and the Mosque of Selim, in a set marking the recapture of Adrianople from the Bulgarians which was printed in Britain by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. Ltd.

Printed in lithography at the Constantinople mint in 1862, the four stamps came in values of 20 paras (black on yellow), 1 piastre (black on purple), 2 piastres (black on blue) and 5 piastres (black on red). At this time there were 40 paras in 1 piastre.

The printed stamps were transferred to the Ministry of Finance, where a coloured control strip was added along the margin

From left: 20 para and 1 piastre values on thick paper; a thick paper 20 para 'mirror print' variety, used and showing a typical cancellation; thin paper 2 piastre black on blue

Below: a tete-beche block of six 20 para values on thin paper. Note how the red control strip is added between the rows of stamps, meaning some show the strip at the top of the stamps and others at the bottom

of the stamps, most likely using a roller, to make the stamps valid for postage. This additional element gives collectors more varieties to pursue; some examples have the strip along the bottom and others across the top, others feature no strip at all, while both red and blue examples are known. The Arabic script on the strip reads 'Nazareti Maliye devleti aliye', which roughly translates to 'Ministry of Finance of the Imperial Government'. The stamps were then issued imperforate.

As Mehmet Basaran explains in his study, the order of the different printings is another hurdle for the collector to negotiate, since the second printing was the first to be issued. The first printing of stamps comprised two values, 2 and 5 piastres, but very few sheets of the stamps were produced. In 1864 – the exact month is open to debate – stamps of the second printing had been exhausted and the first printing stamps were used, together with a third printing, on thicker paper, of

20 paras and 1 piastre stamps.

To further muddy the waters of this intriguing stamp issue, all four values of the second printing were also issued in brown as postage due stamps, for use when post was sent from locations without a post office; the stamps were cancelled upon arrival rather than before delivery.

For the collector with ample time and resources, the subsequent issues of the Ottoman Empire and Turkey will also be tempting. The 'Duloz' issue of 1865, engraved by a French artist Pierre Dulos and printed initially in Paris, featured a 'star and crescent' design and were overprinted in Arabic 'Postai devleti Osmaniye' or 'Post of the Ottoman Empire'. Naturally, the seven values offer many varieties in paper colour, subtle design flaws, and varying overprints.

In 1876 a new set signalled the Ottoman Empire's entry into the Universal Postal Union, with the design featuring both Arabic and Western characters, the value and the words 'EMP: OTTOMAN' printed



British Library Philatelic Collections

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in black. A more complex design, known as the 'Arms and Tughra' appeared in 1892, this time with the value written in French and the very centre of the design showing a minuscule tughra of Abdul Hamid II.

The larger Tughra design returned in 1901, this time with Western values, and issued in values and colours for both internal and external post, and the previously mentioned 1913 issue saw the first pictorial stamps of the region.

The Empire's decreasing influence – meaning the postage stamps issued were valid in an ever decreasing region – was only exacerbated by the rigours of the First World War, during which new stamps were issued with a distinctive military theme, before paper shortages prompted the re-use of stamps issued as far back as 1865. The occupation of Constantinople by the Allied Forces was the beginning of the end of the Ottoman Empire. The Treaty of Sèvres in 1920 saw Ottoman territory distributed to other nations, but only left the region in disarray as a war of independence ensued. Turkey's borders were finally defined after the subsequent Treaty of Lausanne in 1923, a peace agreement that was marked with a set of pictorial stamps, signalling a new approach to the region's fascinating stamps.

Above, right: a section of a panorama of Istanbul (Library of Congress, LC-USZC4-11857)

Below: more examples of the first issue of what is now Turkey, taken from the Tapling Collection held in the British Library Philatelic Collections



Stamp values

A mint vertical tête-bêche pair of 2 piastres black on thin blue paper, with 'large margins and of rich colour... probably from edge of sheet with the red control band incomplete' sold for £288 at a recent Corinphila auction (website: corinphila.ch).

Naturally, stamps on cover and piece are widely sought after and often command higher prices. An 1863 cover bearing a 5 piastres black on thin red paper, addressed to the 2nd Army in Sumnu, Bulgaria, and cancelled by dotted battal cancellation in blue, fetched £1,247 at the same Corinphila sale.

Too expensive? Those wishing to dabble in these rewarding stamps can form a small collection relatively cheaply. Single examples of the Tughra stamps generally sell on eBay for upwards of £25, which is around twenty percent less than catalogue value.





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'96 BURKINA FASO BIRDS - MAPS	(4)	U	88P	(NO 5 th OR 8 th WHICH WERE ISSUED LATER)			
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A United Arab Republic

This month's stamp tells the story of an ill-fated attempt to merge two countries that shared no common border. It is also a reminder of how the world was in the 1950s, with nations rising and falling against the background of the Cold War. As Chris West explains, the consequences of its story are still with us today

The two countries are Egypt and Syria. Egypt's leader in 1958 was Colonel Gamal Abdul Nasser, who was the hero of the Arab world, having outmanoeuvred the West over the Suez Canal two years earlier. His dream was to have one Arab nation – with him as boss.

Syria at that time was in a state of political crisis, with its ruling elite – and neighbours – scared of a takeover by communists. This fear nearly caused war in 1957, with troop build-ups on Syria's borders, but diplomacy prevented the situation escalating. The incident is now largely forgotten, unlike other Cold War flashpoints such as Berlin 1961 or the Cuban missile crisis, but it scared the world at the time, and was a taste of dangers to come.

In January 1958, a group of Syrian army officers flew to Cairo and signed a deal with Nasser to make one nation of the two countries. The 'United Arab Republic' came into being on 1 February, the date on this stamp.

The stamp belongs to the first series produced by the new republic, which soon became an active issuer of commemoratives. Most have little value, though there are exceptions. A minisheet commemorating the Damascus International Fair of 1958 sells for about £30. Also of interest are stamps issued by the UAR for Palestine, the area we now call the Gaza Strip, which had been occupied by Egypt in 1957 (with a UN mandate). Egypt would lose the territory to Israel in the 1967 'Six Day War'.

The UAR experiment started well for the participants. Later in 1958, a revolution in Iraq deposed (and killed) the pro-Western king, and the



country's new leaders were keen to join the republic. This would have made the UAR a powerful force. However, Iraq's new government was unable to cement its power, and the country soon collapsed into civil strife: it never joined. Then Egypt

The United Arab Republic lasted three years – a failure in political terms but more than long enough for stamps to be issued. Separate stamps were issued by both countries due to the differences in currencies. The illustrated 'Birth of United Arab Republic' design of 1958 was issued in values of 12½p and 17½p in Syria and 10m and 15m in Egypt. The first stamps of the Syrian Arab Republic were issued in 1961. Egypt's stamps used 'UAR' until 1971, when the country name on the stamps became 'AR Egypt'

This stamp, perhaps, foreshadows these developments, with Egypt in the foreground and Syria seen further back.

In September 1961, a group of Syrian army officers seized power, declaring national independence and the end of the UAR. In 1963, there was a brief attempt to recreate the united republic as a more federal, less Cairo-dominated entity, but it failed. The planned new-look UAR did not issue any stamps, though it left a small legacy on the Iraqi flag, whose three stars were meant to represent Egypt, Iraq and Syria (the stars were later given a new meaning by Saddam Hussain).

Syria continued to be insecure until 1970, when in yet another coup Hafiz al-Assad became president. He died in 2000 and was replaced by his son, the controversial Bashar Al-Assad.

Egypt continued to call itself the UAR until 1971. All its stamps until that time have UAR written on them, the last of these shows the Sphinx, pyramids and Colonel Nasser, who had died the year before. After that, Egyptian stamps read Egypt AR, the Arab Republic of Egypt, which is still the country's official name.

The UAR experiment failed for many reasons, though some believe it was due to Egypt's dominance, as reflected on the stamp design, with the map of Egypt in foreground, Syria seen further back

began to overplay its hand in Syria. The top jobs in Damascus were soon all filled by Egyptians. Syrian industries were forcibly nationalised.

How would the world be if the UAR so proudly announced on this stamp had survived and flourished? We will never know.

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The Collectors' Secret Weapon –



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Andrew with Alan on the ITV Alan Titchmarsh Show Promoting Philately

Some say that Tony Blair only did one good thing, but I maintain he did at least one good other. Now I've got nothing against the next man smoking a cigarette on his own, after all we are fortunate to live in a democracy – but I can remember, as the sun was going down, quietly sitting one evening in a country pub, eating my meal at a long table as there was no other available... when, (you've guessed) two couples sat down opposite and alongside and without a word immediately all four struck-up... whilst I was eating

Muttering dark thoughts under my breath - I have never seen a smoker smoking and eating simultaneously, have you? ...so it didn't seem reasonable for them to smoke whilst I was finishing my meal. Besides which I had showered and dressed in fresh clothes which now smelt like...

...but of course, that was the way things had always been done in public houses and eating places since Sir Walter Raleigh introduced us to Virginia Tobacco in 1578 – but just because things had always been done that way in public hosteleries for 400+ years didn't mean that it was right. And it was under Tony

Blair that smokers were legally separated from non-smokers, and when I first heard about it I expected an outcry... but there wasn't one really was there?

Likewise 'buyer's premiums' at most stamp auctions have been the norm for most of the past 50 years which doesn't make them right, and auctions seem to have operated successfully without buyer's premiums for the previous 300 years ...and so long as you factor in paying up to 27%+/- more than the stamps are sold for... then there's an argument that they've cost you no more... **But**

I've never met a collector yet that doesn't object to 'buyer's premiums'

Isn't it strange that so many stamp auctions operate in this way? I can't think of many industries where you pay up to 27%+/- more for the privilege of buying something – that is unless you consider VAT, but that's a Government Tax...

Personally I can't understand why things have to be done this way... **but fortunately there's a solution, there are still major auctions successfully defying buyer's premiums, and naturally I would like to introduce you to the largest of them** – my auction company Universal Philatelic Auctions otherwise known as **UPA**. **UPA holds the United Kingdom Philatelic Auction record of 2,083 different bidder participants in one stamp auction – to place this in perspective that's up to 1,500 more different bidders than frequent most UK auction houses...**

Therefore, if you are a new collector to **UPA**, I'd like to invite you to test



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The challenge of the Falklands

When he first discovered the complexities and challenges involved in collecting Falkland Islands stamps, reader Hugh Osborne was hooked. Since then he has built an impressive collection of postal history and stamps relating to the South Atlantic islands

Hugh Osborne



How long have you been collecting stamps?

From when I was but a small boy but seriously after the children had flown the nest.

What attracted you to this subject?

In the period when my collecting interests had been slimmed down to chiefly Commonwealth countries located in the southern hemisphere, I attended a Falkland Islands Philatelic Study Group (FIPSG) meeting and was fascinated by the level of knowledge, postal and social history of the Falkland Islands and the range of philatelic subjects discussed. I was hooked, all other interests just faded away.

What is your favourite item in the collection?

That is a difficult one, I have many to which I am quite attached, but to answer the question I would choose an Edwardian postcard sent from South Georgia by the wife of Carl Anton Larsen (the founder of whaling at South Georgia and whaling in the south Antarctic seas) to their daughter and architect husband at home in Norway. He was the designer of the whalers' church subsequently erected at Grytviken, South Georgia. It was my first significant eBay purchase bought before I was aware of Snipe software and so I stayed up into the small hours to make my bid but seconds before bidding closed. It was some time before I could establish what had happened but it transpired my bid had been timed a second or so ahead of a dealer who had bid the same as I had.

Which item was most difficult to find?

Although I would say that my philatelic interest has moved on from 'stamps' to 'postal history', I still particularly enjoy developing my King George VI first definitive issue. I have tried to collect an unmounted imprint block of all values and printings, a challenge yet to be completed. After 35 years, it was at an auction only last year that the remaining wants were offered, but sold at such high multiples of the SG price I only was successful in one of four cases. I am still hoping...

What advice would you give to fellow collectors?

Join a club, local or specialist, and become a master of your chosen area.

What would you say to a collector to encourage them to start displaying their stamps?

Have a go, starting at club level; listen and learn, and keep growing your skills.



DATE-STAMPED MAIL, WHALING POSTCARDS

Postcard 1d UPU rate 25 December, 1898 to 31 December, 1921
PESCA WHALING STATION, GRYTVIKEN, CUMBERLAND BAY
19 April, 1912 postcard sent by mother, Mrs Carl Anton Larsen, to daughter and son-in-law Signe and Architect Kielland in Norway. Sent at UPU postcard 1d rate, SG1 datestamp; mail taken that day by SS *Cachalote* to Buenos Aires. Kielland was the architect of Whalers Church sent in kit form for assembly at Grytviken, consecrated Xmas, 1913.



1911 Postcard date-stamped SG1, 'DE 16 11'; plus German 'Porto' (Unpaid) and thus taxed (one of only four known taxed SGPE postcards). Handstamp SH 1B (with upper case A in 'At' and initialled by 'EBB'). Sender GSPE Deutschland's Dr Ludwig Kohl left the expedition on 11 December, 1911 after an appendix operation.



**GERMAN SOUTH POLAR EXPEDITION,
visiting SOUTH GEORGIA, October to December, 1911**

Expedition registered mail sent at 4½d UPU registered rate 1911 cover, flap pre-printed 'DEUTSCHE ANTARKTISCHE EXPEDITION'. Sent by leader W Filchner, ½d over-franked for UPU registered (label type SG1) rate to famous far-east explorer Sven von Hedin in Stockholm. Date-stamped SG1, DE 10 11; transit marked London, 21 JA 12. Expedition four-line cachet exhibits the 'Grytviken' flaw caused by the 'n' being inverted.



Expert opinion

Islands are enduringly attractive to collectors, writes Chris King, Chair of ABPS National Exhibitions and International Committee. I suppose that there's an underlying feeling that it's going to be easier to complete an island collection, although this is quite wrong. I know this well since I started, and gave in, on the postal history of the Faroes.

The problem with islands is that genuinely used items, some postmarks, and early mail are quite often very difficult to find, while for some later issues there is a great deal of material created especially for collectors.

Of course, the challenge is part of the attraction, and the Falkland Islands is a very attractive postal history subject. Whaling and Polar Expeditions are very collectable, as Hugh Osborne shows in his exhibit. Ernest Shackleton, for example, died on South Georgia in 1922, and mail related to this expedition was shown at Monacophil in December 2015. Early items can be especially desirable, bearing in mind that the earliest recorded letter is dated 15 February, 1800 (sold at Grosvenor in November 2015). Add to this the 19th-century ship letters and packet services, and incoming mail, material from the First and Second World Wars, and the 1982 Falklands War, and the consequence is a lifetime of study, if you can find the material. Take a look at Mike Roberts' Falklands 64 page booklet at: <http://stamp.cm/falklands-booklet>

With the Falklands there's an added bonus for traditional philatelists. From the classical simplicity of the Victorian issues (1878-1898), to the complexity of the Edward VII and George V period, and the issues of the Dependencies, there's a great deal to study, particularly when looking for usages to support the collection. Then there are, to my mind, two of the most beautiful issues of the British Empire: the 1933 Centenary of British Administration and the 1938 series for George VI. How I wanted these as a schoolboy collector, and how pleased I was to see them overprinted on cover at Stampex in Hugh's 'Postal History of South Georgia 1909-1954' last year.

It's important not to forget the other issues, not just the later stamps of George VI, and the first of Elizabeth II, but, for example, the first decimal currency overprints of 1971 and the second series of 1972. Easy to find mint and used, but commercially used on cover? And if you are looking for a real challenge try the stamps of the Falkland Islands and Dependencies used for revenue purposes!



SOUTH GEORGIA CENSOR

1917 WWI censored at South Georgia, whaling cover to Argentina, UPU registered (label type SG2) rate, arrived Buenos Aires, 23 May, 1917. Sender, per flap, O Kraul, Grytviken (sic), South Georgia. Whaling cover, uniquely receiving the attention of a South Georgia First World War censor, sent to Argentina.

The 2½d UPU, 1 oz surface letter rate, was re-introduced on 1 January, 1926. Late in January 1928, Grytviken Post Office stocks of ½d and 2½d stamps were exhausted; authority from Stanley was granted by telegram to surcharge current 2d definitive stamps with '2½D' by employing a locally produced handstamp.



1928 Cover to Sandefjord, Norway sent at 2½d UPU rate, date-stamped SG1, 7 FE 28. Headed 'Leith Harbour, 7/2 - 28' the letter declares 'the whole island has run short of stamps but only a few have been printed over'. Mail was collected on 8 February, 1928 and taken by SS *Albuera*, a cargo ship, to Buenos Aires for onward transmission by ship via England. At Sandefjord, an arrival marking for 15 III 28 was applied. Surcharged stamps were available on sale between 7 and 22 February, 1928; 1,179 were sold. Commercial covers are rare; this is one of only four known, correctly franked (paying UPU rate to Norway).

Two or more stamps were required for the 3d UPU, 1 oz surface letter rate, introduced 1 January, 1923. During March 1923, Grytviken Post Office suffered a shortage of ½d, 1d and 2d stamps resolved by the initiative of the postmaster who authorised the bisecting of 2½d and 6d stamps to meet this emergency.



The letter, sent by a member of the whaling community, was headed 'Leith Harbour, Good Friday 1923'; the bisected half of a 6d stamp used to pay the 3d UPU letter rate to Brooklyn, United States. Taken by SS *Elevenes*, departing Grytviken on 30 March, 1923 bound for Buenos Aires. Only two covers are known franked with a bisected 6d, both datestamped by SG1 on MR 30 23 (30 March 1923); the other sent to a bank in Norway.

PELAGIC WHALING MAIL, 1931

Whaling technology advanced so that by mid-1920s Floating Factory ships (FF) could operate pelagically, in international waters, without using any land services and free of national control and taxation.

FF ANGLO-NORSE II

Licensed by the Falkland Islands Government to fish pelagically off the South Sandwich Islands, FF *Anglo-Norse II* completed two profitable seasons, 1929-30 and 1930-31, with Edward Beveridge Binnie on board, appointed the Expedition Secretary.



1931 Cover at 1d internal rate, probably transferred from FF *Anglo-Norse II* by an off-duty catcher on a mail run to Grytviken, and there datestamped SG1, MR 7 31 was sent by Edward B Binnie to his elder Brother, Thomas Binnie, Stanley; taken thence by SS *Fleurus*, logged inbound 2 April, 1931. The first *Anglo Norse*, ex Montcalm built 1897, operated at the South Sandwich whaling ground for 1927-28 and 1928-29 seasons. The second *Anglo Norse II*, ex Maricopa built 1914, worked the same whaling ground for the next two seasons



UPU REGISTERED & TAXED MAIL

Argentine post authorities deemed Falkland Islands centenary stamps to be unacceptable, this cover therefore was considered unpaid and was taxed accordingly, with Argentine markings on reverse, including Argentine arrival datestamp at Buenos Aires, 17 ENE (January) (19)34, and \$090 tax mark, 18 ENE 34.



POSTAL SERVICES SUSPENDED

Mail en route to Norway considered undeliverable owing to German invasion on 9 April, 1940. Censored whaling mail to Norway 'Returned to Sender'. 20 February, 1940 registered whaling cover from Stanley, Falkland Islands, censored in England en route to Norway. Whilst in transit, postal services to Norway were suspended a result of the invasion and occupation by German armed forces and hence, returned by Royal Mail to sender. This English WWII cachet is not known on South Georgia mail; there are around five examples recorded on mail from the Falkland Islands.

Exhibiting with the ABPS

The Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) is the national organisation in charge of exhibiting in the United Kingdom.

Competitive exhibiting takes place at a variety of levels within philately and provides a friendly forum for philatelists to meet, exchange philatelic research and study, and share knowledge to fellow collectors, and the general public. Exhibiting requires research, organisation and discipline, with rules to follow, and your collection will be scrutinised by accredited judges, but the challenge of creating an exhibit can give you new skills, improve your collection, allow you to meet like-minded collectors and give you a sense of accomplishment.

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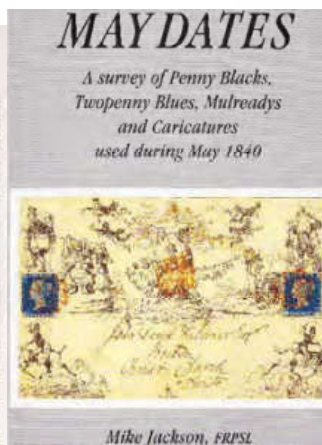
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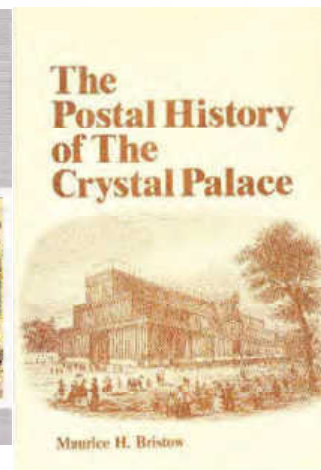
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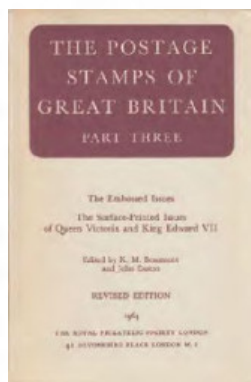
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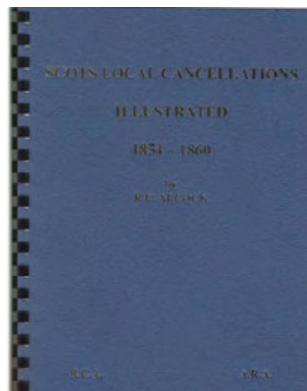
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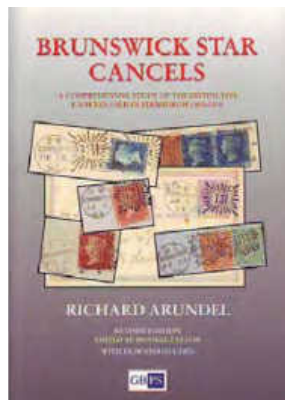
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German East Africa

If one wants to begin collecting stamps from dead countries, finding material from former colonies is the easiest place to start. This month, Michael Adkins provides a guide to one such colony: German East Africa

Germany were late to the colonisation game, primarily because the German Empire wasn't founded until

1871. Initially, the Germans had little interest in colonial ventures, however, as European powers competed and grasped for resource rich territories in Africa, they were forced to reconsider. Chancellor Otto von Bismarck reluctantly consented in 1884 to a German colonial effort.

With Germany joining the 'Scramble for Africa', great concern arose among other European Powers, especially Britain and France. To resolve the problem and prevent a possible war, the Berlin Conference was convened in November, 1884 with all of the major European colonial powers. The result: Africa was carved up, and with the exception of Ethiopia and Liberia, would be ruled by the Europeans.

German East Africa Protectorate (today Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda) was established in 1885 as a result of the Conference. Initially, the territory was to be administered by charter to the Deutsche Ostafrikanische Gesellschaft (German East African Company).

From the beginning, the Company struggled to maintain order, as the local population strongly resisted colonisation. Constant revolts and battles required frequent intervention



From left: the first stamps for German East Africa were surcharged on German stamps and issued in 1893 • German East Africa changed its surcharge in 1896 to include the colony name. The overprint and surcharge were applied diagonally • the 'Yacht' stamps were issued across all German colonies and used a key plate process with the initial stamp printed without the colony name and denominations; this allowed the stamps to be easily changed, such as when German East Africa changed the monetary unit from pesa to heller • the larger 1901 'Yacht' design was used for stamps denominated in Rupees, as seen here

from the German military. Eventually it became apparent that the company could not effectively hold the protectorate without constant military support from Germany. On 1 January, 1891, Germany took back the charter, creating the Deutsch Ostafrika (German East Africa) Colony.

Frequent rebellion continued among the native population. One of the more significant was the Maji Maji Uprising. In 1905, Kinjikitile Ngwale, a local tribal prophet, claimed that a sacred water source called 'Maji Maji' could repel German bullets. The locals, armed with spears and arrows doused in the water, began attacking German outposts and destroying crops. As the rebellion spread across the country, German retaliation was brutal. By the end of the rebellion in 1907, over 75,000 natives were dead.

As the First World War erupted, Africa was an important theatre of conflict between the colonial armies. Some of the earliest battles occurred in German East Africa with Belgian forces attacking from the west, British forces from the south and Indian forces from the east. Most of the soldiers consisted of Africans commanded by European officers. By 1917, allies controlled most of German East Africa. At the end of the war, the colony was divided: Tanganyika was mandated to the British, Ruanda-Urundi went to the Belgians, and the small area of the Kionga Triangle became part of Mozambique.

German East Africa issued its first postage stamps in 1893 by surcharging definitive stamps from Germany into East African Rupees: (64 Pesa = 1 Rupee). Indian Rupees were the primary currency of trade routes in the region.

In 1896, new stamps were issued, also surcharged on German stamps. The new issues were overprinted diagonally and included the name of the colony: 'Deutsch-Ostafrika'.

Beginning late 1900, all German colonies issued stamps with a common design, featuring the 'Hohenzollern', the personal yacht of the German Kaiser. The stamps came in two sizes and used a key plate process, where the top and bottom scrolls were left blank, and individual colony names and values were added as required.

The yacht stamps of German East Africa were first issued on 1 January, 1901. They were used until 1905, when Germany assumed responsibility for the currency in the Colony. The official monetary unit became the 'heller' replacing the 'pesa' (100 heller = 1 rupee). With this change, new stamps were issued.

For all of the early issues, stamps of German East Africa were printed on paper without a watermark, however beginning in 1906, the yacht stamps began to be resupplied on paper with a lozenge watermark. Stamps continued to be printed even after most of the territory was occupied by the British and Belgians in 1916.

As with most German stamps, there are many colour variations and the early surcharges were printed in several different sizes. However, unless you are searching for those obscure variations, you could complete the country with some time and effort. Collecting postmark locations can also be a rewarding endeavour, as there were 59 different post offices used during the colonial period. Railroad and feldpost postmarks are also very collectable.

Fact file

German East Africa

Government: German Colony

Prior Regime: German Protectorate

Key Dates:

1884 – German Protectorate formed, administered by the German East Africa Company

1 January, 1891 – Germany assume control from the Charter company and form the German East Africa Colony

1905 - 1907 – Maji Maji Uprising

1916 – Allied powers assume control of the Colony

1919 – Colony was divided between Britain and Belgium

Following Regime: Tanganyika and Ruanda-Urundi

First Stamp Issued: 1893





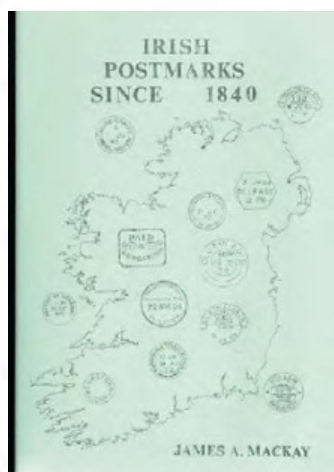
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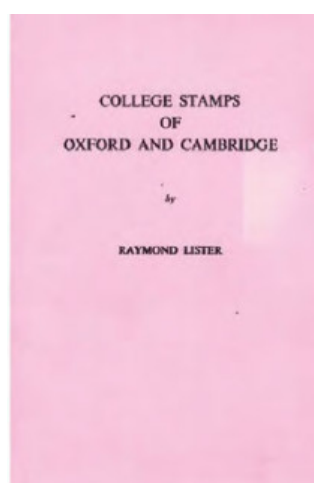
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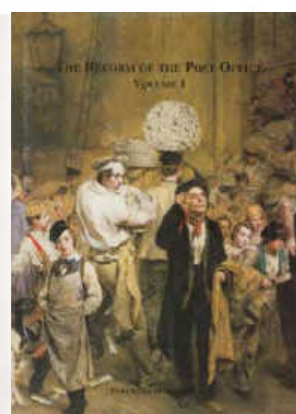
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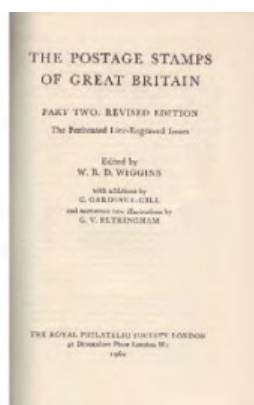
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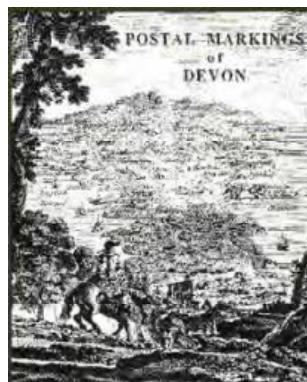
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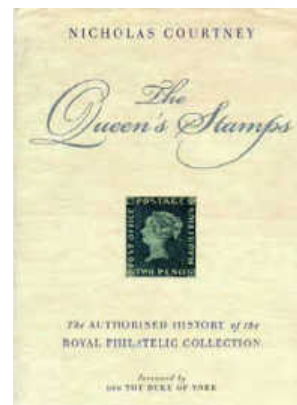
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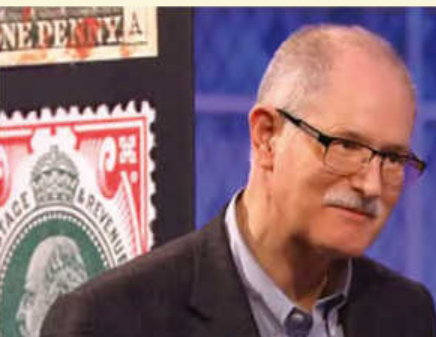
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The British Solomon Islands

Ed Fletcher looks at the stamp and postal history of the British Solomon Islands during the reigns of Victoria, Edward VII, George V and George VI

This archipelago of tropical islands and coral atolls lies in the south-west Pacific approximately 500 miles east of Papua New Guinea and almost 1,000 miles from Australia. A Spanish navigator, Alvaro de Mendaña, first sailed through the group in 1567, naming the three largest islands Guadalcanal, Ysabel and San Christobel.

When he landed on Guadalcanal he found pearls in the ashes of a fire where natives had baked and eaten oysters. He also recovered alluvial gold at the mouth of a river when he carried out panning trials. He seems to have convinced himself that he had discovered the source of the biblical King Solomon's fabulous wealth and named the group of islands accordingly. Thirty years later Mendaña returned with 100 settlers, intent on exploiting the riches. Alas he was struck down by malaria not long after arriving.



His settlement withered when gold returns proved disappointing.

The indigenous Melanesians had discovered their islands 2,000 years earlier, quite content to live as fishermen, hunter-gatherers and cannibals... until Europeans arrived and interfered with their daily routines. In the 1890s Germany took an interest in the region when seeking colonial possessions that might supply raw materials for home industries, and distant ports for its proposed High Seas Fleet. Bismarck agreed to the annexing of a number of islands in the northern Solomons, prompting Great Britain to declare the southern islands a British Protectorate in 1893. A British Resident Commissioner with his headquarters on Tulagi Island, twenty miles north of Guadalcanal, was appointed in 1897. Most of the German islands were later ceded to Britain in return for concessions in Samoa where German companies had established substantial businesses supplying copra (unrefined coconut oil) to chemical industries in Germany.

During the first few years of the Protectorate, from 1893, the Sydney GPO



From top: this 1907 Large Canoe 2d indigo horizontal pair, imperforate between, is one of only five such pairs believed to exist. Sold in a 2006 Grosvenor Philatelic Auction for £9,000; a set of 1907 Large Canoe used on a cover dated 1 January 1907 registered from Tulagi to Germany; the ½d and 1d on the reverse; with New South Wales 2½d and 3d added and cancelled by two strikes of R in a circle. Backstamped 19 August arrival and thus very scarce because the 1907 Large Canoes were not accepted for international postage until early September, leading to the need for re-franking. Sold for £700 in 2007

Left: 1907 Large Canoe 6d chocolate, in a mint vertical pair, imperforate between. Sold for £3,800 in 2006



A fine mint example of the 1914 - 1923 £1 purple and black on red from the base of a sheet showing plate number 3. Sold for £170 in 2006

Interesting 1917 cover from Kieta (New Guinea) to London with a George V ½d corner block of four, a 1d strip of three, an Australia 2d kangaroo horizontal bisect, with a North West Pacific Islands 2d diagonal bisect. Sold for £110 in 2012

Below: 1935 Silver Jubilee 1½d deep blue and carmine, with a framed 'PAQUEBOT', on a cover to Sydney

consigned mail for the Solomon Islands Resident Commissioner and his staff to sealed bags, adding any private mail for European traders, or for agents supplying native labourers to Queensland's sugar cane fields, or for Christian missionaries if capacity permitted. Bags were entrusted to the pursers of vessels bound for the Solomons. The same crew members accepted returning mail, for which the senders paid in cash or with New South Wales stamps if available. From 1907 an arrangement for the handling of registered letters allowed inbound packages to travel in the sealed mailbag of the Resident Commissioner, who agreed to take responsibility for delivery within the islands. Outgoing registered mail, and ordinary mail placed in the same bag at Tulagi could only be accepted if accompanied by cash or stamps to cover its full journey from Sydney to its ultimate destination.

In the same year residents of Gizo, the second largest settlement in the



Solomon Islands at that time, used the Gizo Resident Magistrate's mail bag for their mail from and to Sydney. At other settlements locals had to rely on passing ships and their pursers for mail service beyond the Solomon Islands.

The year 1907 also marked the commencement of an inter-island postal service, thanks to the efforts of Resident Commissioner, CM Woodford, who designed and had lithograph printed in Sydney a set

of seven values first used on 14 February. Prior to that time he had attempted to persuade London to supply the Solomon Islands with a stamp issue of their own, claiming that 'the postal work has so much increased that in my calculations for the year 1906-1907 I estimated a revenue of £600 will be received from their sale.' The High Commissioner for the Western Pacific said the estimates were too optimistic, so Mr Woodford suggested that Fiji stamps overprinted Solomon Islands might meet his needs. After further delays he then took it upon himself to produce the iconic set for which the Solomon Islands is now so renowned. They were accepted for international postage in September 1907.

The design, today known as the Large Canoe issue, shows the vessel with its crew of paddlers passing Tulagi Island with coconut palms to right and left. In the foreground we can just make out a pearl, a turtle and a snail shell. These, together with copra from the coconuts, display the primary export products of the Solomon Islands in that decade. The snail shells were turned into shirt buttons, and most of the turtle shells became curios in Edwardian



collecting cabinets. It is worth noting that the vessel was a tomoko (war canoe) used by the rowers when capturing victims to satisfy their cannibal appetites. It remained a practice deep into the 20th century, as this extract from the *Western Daily Express* for August 1928 shows:

Native Police Help To Capture Cannibals

OBE medals have been awarded to two native policemen in the Solomon Islands. They helped white police officers to track down the ringleader of a group of cannibals who massacred the entire crew of the New Zealand Government steamer at Sinarango port on the island of Malaita a few months ago. Before attacking the steamer the cannibals adorned themselves in full war-paint. The British responded by sending a naval force of 1,500 aboard the Australian cruiser Adelaide. They accompanied 30 white police and 50 native police into the bush after the fleeing cannibals. Thirteen chiefs and village rulers were captured, tried and executed. Others who took part in the attack on the New Zealand vessel received lengthy prison sentences.

The Sydney printer supplied a total of 60,000 ½d, 1d, 2d and 2½d in ultramarine, rose-carmine, indigo and orange-yellow; together with 30,000 5d, 6d and 1s in emerald-green, chocolate and bright purple. The series met the postal needs of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate until November 1908 when a similar series (the Small Canoe issue) recess printed by De La



Rue in eleven values (½d - 5s) and different colours, took their place. They were used at four newly opened post offices around the Solomons, and they remained in use during the remainder of Edward VII's reign.

The reign of George V brought the standard colonial key type to the Solomons: the monarch's bust in a simple oval frame inscribed 'BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS' and either 'POSTAGE POSTAGE' or 'POSTAGE REVENUE'. Not long after their introduction in 1913 the turmoil of the First World War witnessed Australian Imperial forces occupying all German possessions throughout the Solomons, as well as the whole of German New Guinea. In the 1920s Australian trusteeship was formalised at the United Nations. Nevertheless Japanese forces overran all islands in the group in May 1942. In a frantic scramble as the enemy closed in, all stamps and post office furnishings were evacuated to Fiji

Set of four 1935 Silver Jubilee issues, with additional 1½d and 3d, on a registered cover from Tulagi to Cheshire. Sold for £110 in 2007

Below, from left: 1939 - 1951 2½d magenta and sage-green vertical pair, horizontally imperforate between. This very fine unmounted mint George VI rarity sold in 2006 for £15,500; there are lots of modestly priced pictorials, commemoratives and other interesting stamps to tempt newcomers to the British Solomon Islands



in the nick of time. American and Allied forces, knowing the strategic importance of Guadalcanal to the defence of Northern Australia; and aware that if the Japanese established an airfield on the island they would bomb Australian cities and sea routes, fought an epic battle to re-take it, eventually succeeding in December 1942. Subsequently the town of Honiara on Guadalcanal became the capital of the Solomon Islands. Ironically supplies of Japanese forces postcards left behind when the Japanese retreated were used by American and other soldiers who wrote letters home at that time. Civilian post offices re-opened in July, 1943.

During the reign of George VI a set of thirteen large pictorials came into use between 1939 and 1951. Continuing the tradition established with the first Large Canoe issue they included three pictorials depicting native canoes. Together with native weapons, a volcano and examples of flora and fauna, these stamps can all be purchased at prices low enough to attract new collectors to the stamps and postal history of these colourful Pacific islands which, post Independence, have upheld the pictorial standards of the Colonial era.

All covers illustrated featured recently in Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions. Visit their website to view more.

GB.8 KEIR HARDIE Scarce political cover for the Centenary of the death of Keir Hardie. This must be one of the scarcest political covers, due to the fact that only 50 covers were produced; issued to commemorate the centenary of the death of Keir Hardie, the founder of the British Labour Party. The cover depicts the famous man with Royal Mail stamp tied to cover by official Royal Mail Edinburgh Postmark dated 26/09/15, one hundred years to the day of Keir Hardie's death.....Price £11.

DJ. 98 DJIBOUTI A small but specialised collection of Djibouti stamps, mostly used but mint noted. Contains many better catalogued, high denomination stamp..... Price £9.60

CIND 21. "CINDERELLA STAMPS" An amazing esoteric collection of worldwide Cinderella stamps: includes unissued, bogus, forgeries, phantoms, reprints, essays, propaganda issues, proofs and printers progressive proofs. Also noted better local issues, postal strike stamps. From a multitude of countries plus spectacular GB KEVII one pound green imperforate unmounted mint (faux), also India Queen Victoria four annas red and blue inverted head (faux), Spanish Civil War communist legion issue, private delivery company stamps, GB unadopted designs (essays) plus other items. If only a few of these stamps were genuine the catalogue value would be in excess of £20,000. But these are sold "as is" not guaranteed as genuine. The spectacular collection of Cinderella Stamps mint and "used"Price £14.30

GB 38 GREAT BRITAIN WAR OF THE ROSES – Historic Commemorative Cover for the 530th Anniversary of the Battle of Bosworth Field. Less than fifty covers are known to exist, mostly now in collectors' hands and elusive to locate; depicting a superb illustration of the last battle of the War of the Roses, one of the most decisive battles in English History. The cover bears the GB green "pound note stamp" tied with Royal Mail official King Richard III illustrated postmark, dated: 22/08/15, the anniv. Date (530 years laterPrice £13

WE 378 EUROPE Mostly Western Europe, an attractive collection of mint and used stamps with: Switzerland, Yugoslavia, San-Marino also noted Eire, Italy, Spain and Greece – strength in older Yugoslavia. Contains several hundred different European stampsPrice: £8.75

GB 4K GREAT BRITAIN Postal History Cover for British Parliaments enactment of the stamp act. Commemorating the 250th Anniv of the Stamp Act. In 1766 the controversial stamp act was a major cause of the American Revolution. Benjamin Franklin appealed to the British House of Commons and the act was repealed. The historic cover of which only fifty exist bears the Royal Mail illustrated ship postmark dated 1/11/15. The cover also depicts the 1766 British One Penny Stamp which pre-dated the famous 1d Black Stamp of 1840 by sixty four yearsPrice: £19.50

SW171 STAR WARS A fantastic specialised collection of Star Wars postage stamps and Star Wars first day covers. Contains a mass of different Star Wars stamps including Great Britain (Royal Mail) issues also scarcer Star Wars stamps from other countries; includes stamps for the original film, "Return of the Jedi", "The Phantom Menace", "The Empire Strikes Back". Characters depicted include: Obi Wan Kenobi, Princess Leia, Darth Vader, Anakin Skywalker, Hans Solo, The Jedi Knights plus many others, too many to list. Comprising mostly of complete sets in mint sheetlets plus miniature sheets and First Day Covers. The impressive Star Wars stamp collection Price: £29.75

AG.23 BATTLE OF AGINCOURT: The scarce cover issued to commemorate the 600th Anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt. The cover is superbly illustrated with the arms of King Henry V and bears the official British Royal Mail Postmark, depicting King Henry V, dated 25/10/15, six hundred years to the day of the historic battle. Only 50 of this scarce cover exist.....Price £15

NZ.108 NEW ZEALAND: A superb collection of New Zealand Stamps dating back to King George V follows on to King Geo VI issues, onto early Elizabethan stamps to more recent issues; containing several hundred stamps in mostly fine used condition. Unchecked for catalogue value, this is a great specialised lot to build upon. Several hundred different NZ stamps ... Price £16.50

A.94 ZOOLOGICAL: A glorious collection of worldwide animal stamps. This is virtually a Noah's Ark of all species of animal life; includes everything from insects and butterflies to fish and sea life, birds, domestic animals and wildlife. A colourful collection including many sets with several hundred different animal stampsPrice £17.25

WWI.74 GHURKA: A valuable and scarce Ghurka cover issued to commemorate the heroic Ghurkas at Gallipoli. In 1915 the Ghurkas gained immortal fame at Gallipoli with the capture of "Ghurka Bluff". The Ghurkas were the only troops in the whole campaign to gain the ultimate objective in capturing the Crest line that overlooked the straits. The cover bears the official Royal Mail Ghurka stamp issue with "Cape Helles" Gallipoli pmk. Dated 14/05/2015 in combination with the Royal Mail "We will remember them" illustrated pmk. Dated 25/04/15. The cover is highly recommended as only 60 covers exist worldwidePrice £23.

AF. 418 AFGHANISTAN: A specialized collection of stamps from this war-torn country. Comprising of both mint and used Afghan stamps in blocks and singles with miniature sheets. Strength is in used commemoratives, noted earlier mono-coloured crudely printed early Afghan stamps. A lovely lot unchecked for catalogue value and containing hundreds of Afghanistan stamps Price £18.

MAL 62 MALAYA A substantial collection of Malaya, Malaysia with Singapore. Contains several hundred unmounted mint and fine used stamps in blocks and singles. Noted: Perak, Selangor, Kedah, Sabah, Perlis, Trengganu, Pulau Pinang, Negri Sembilan, Kelantan, Sarawak, Melaka, Johor, Parhang; with strength in Singapore. Several hundred stampsPrice £17

CO. 882 COLOMBIA An important collection of Colombian stamps dating back to older engraved issues. The collection contains several hundred Columbian stamps, including mint and used with elusive overprinted stamps noted. Several hundred different stamps of ColumbiaPrice £24

R. 472 RYUKYU ISLANDS: Rarely offered for sale, this is a superb collection of the stamps of The Ryukyu Islands. Containing only superb unmounted mint stamps. Over 100 different Ryukyu Island Stamps.....Price £18.75

MI 349 MALDIVE ISLANDS: An impressive stamp collection of only unmounted mint blocks of Maldivian Island stamps. The collection is rich in thematic commemoratives. Several hundred mint Maldivian Islands Stamps Price £16

BOB 2 WINSTON CHURCHILL One of the scarcest Churchill covers ever. The combination cover is a dual commemorative of 50th anniversary of Churchill's death in conjunction with the 75th Anniv. of the Battle of Britain. Depicting the iconic war poster with Churchill's quote: "Never was so much owed by so many to so few." The cover bears the Royal Mail Churchill Commemorative stamps issue with Churchill Blenheim Palace Pmk. Dated 24/1/15 Anniv. Of Churchill's death. The cover was unusually reposted on 16/7/15 with Battle of Britain Spitfire anniv. Pmk. on the Royal Mail Spitfire commemorative stamp issue. From a restricted limited edition of only 50 covers. Price £21

SA337 SAUDI ARABIA A small but valuable collection of Saudi Arabian stamps, all different and in superb unmounted mint condition. Contains lots of elusive items, the catalogue value is in excess of £100Price £23.50

CH 739 CHURCHILL A fantastic thematic collection of Winston Churchill stamps; comprising of hundreds of mint and used Churchill stamps, including blocks, noted scarcer unmounted mint blocks of exile govt. Churchill stamps dating back to 1952 unlisted in Stanley Gibbons Catalogue (seldom seen). All aspects of the great man's life are portrayed in this collection. Hundreds of Winston Churchill stamps.....Price £18

HK 145 HONG KONG A fine collection of used stamps of Hong Kong. Almost all the stamps pre date the handover to China. Including \$ values and popular Chinese New Year Commemoratives. Totally unchecked for catalogue value, over 100 Hong Kong stampsPrice £11.

CL5 CLEMENT ATTLEE A scarce political cover commemorating the 70th anniv. of Clement Attlee becoming prime minister. Attlee won a landslide election victory in 1945 bringing the Labour party into power. The scarce cover depicts Clement Attlee in his World War I army uniform. The cover bears the official Royal Mail Attlee commemorative stamp issue with London 26/7/15 postmark. Only 50 of this scarce political cover are known to exist.....Price £19.25

E.E. 543 EASTERN EUROPE Includes Russia, Roumania Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Poland. Several hundred different stamps..... Price £13.25

SAM.1. POLAND - small general collection, include - Nazi Occupation Concentration Camp issue inscribed 'Judenpost' for Lodz Ghetto (Litzmanst) 10pf Green (unused). We cannot guarantee this item but remainder of the collection all seem OK Cheap Price £8.75

SJ120 MEDICAL Stamps with specialised lot of Anti-TB and Red Cross stamps. Also Anti-Malaria stamps Red Cross stamps back to the 1940s or earlier up to more recent. With nursing, doctors and all forms of medicine. A most interesting subject rarely offered for sale ideal for anyone with some medical knowledge to form a valuable collection Price £7

G.114 A WORLDWIDE COVERS & FDC'S Fantastic Accumulation of Commercial & Philatelic covers & FDC's including special pmks, early to modern with Air Mails, Sea Mail, commemorative covers, noted designer signed. Local posts, Islands Post, an unsorted group of about 100 covers.....Price £21

G126E WORKS OF ART. The rarities of the world's most famous art galleries at your fingertips. A superb collection of famous paintings on stamps, over a thousand different not counting duplicates or miniature sheetsPrice £26

RS2a UNIFORMS. Mainly military. Hundreds different. Price £12

EXP 14. THE BRITISH - ICELANDIC EXPEDITION

A scarce expedition cover for the British - Icelandic expedition of 1981. This is the official illustrated cover flown from the UK to KEFLAVIC (Iceland) and bears the P.O. expedition postmark. The cover has been additionally signed by Mike Todd, (Chairman of the B.S.A.C.) An important postal history cover for salePrice £12.

M19A MAURITIUS A fine specialised collection of Mauritius stamps, including several unmounted mint blocks plus singles. Mainly QEII unnm. mint, but includes earlier stamps and some used. A great collection to build on with over 100 Mauritius stamps, unchecked for catalogue valuePrice £12.

SH337 SUPER HEROES A spectacular collection of Super Heroes on stamps including: Superman, Catwoman 'X-Men', Titans, The Incredible Hulk, Spiderman plus others. Noted, Jersey 'Man of Steel' also various miniature sheets & mint and used stamps. The whole collection Price £19.50.

GB85 GREAT BRITAIN An important error on the 1966 Battle of Hastings 6d. value. The wrong colour gold leaf was used in error on the Queens Head. Error – yellow gold instead of normal bronze gold. We can offer the unmounted mint error plus normal stamp for comparisonPrice £7.50

CYL29 CYLINDER NUMBER BLOCKS A specialized collection of Great Britain & British Commonwealth cylinder number blocks. It is unusual to see such a large lot of different cylinder number blocks. 120 stamps in all unmounted mint cylinder number blocksPrice £21

LA39K BRITISH ISLES A phenomenal & valuable collection of British Local Island's stamps. Only unmounted mint, including Lundy Island, Davaar Island, Cairn Iar, Isle of Easdale, Bernera Island, Staffa, Stromo, Isle of Pabay, Bardsey, Herm, Calf of Man, Hildasay – Shetland Islands, Jethou, Brechou, Alderney, St Kilda, St Marys, Calvey Island, Sanda Island, Gugh, St Martins. With blocks, multiples, singles & miniature sheets. This important & valuable collection with only unmounted mint stamps and many high £ values. The nominal face value is well over £200Price £47.25

R28 BRITISH COMMONWEALTH PROOFS: A specialised and most valuable collection of Printers PROOF STAMPS AND PROGRESSIVE PROOF STAMPS some stuck down on special Printers Cards together with Official authorised verification & check signatures. Rarely does such a precious collection get offered for sale, a total of TWENTY PROGRESSIVE PROOFS plus various ProofsPrice £42.00

PH 165 GREAT BRITAIN POSTAL HISTORY POSTMISTRESS COVER A scarce cover signed by Doris Gray, The Postmistress of Haroldswick Post Office. A special Royal Mail Commemorative Stamp was produced in 1997 for Haroldswick P.O, the most northerly post office in Britain, specially postmarked by the Royal Mail at Unst. Shetland Island. Only 200 of this scarce cover were postmarked and signed by the Postmistress nearly two decades ago. Rarely offered for sale.....Price £10.

JOR.43K - JORDAN & TRANS JORDAN A superb collection of only unmounted mint stamps in blocks, pairs and singles. Impressive Trans Jordan early engraved stamps in blocks, following on to later Jordan issues. Over 100 stamps.....Price £13.75

Z33E UNORTHODOX STAMPS One of the most unusual collections we have ever seen assembled, with everything except normal stamps. Including triangular stamps, self adhesive 'free form', map shaped stamps, gold foil round (circular) stamps, diamond shapes, '3 dimensional' and others. Hundreds of different mint and used unorthodox stamps Price £13

PM22 - HAROLD WILSON Scarce GB Political Cover, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Election of Harold Wilson as Prime Minister. The cover is illustrated with the iconic "Labour will get things done" poster and bears Royal Mail, Wilson stamps with official first day post mark and famous Harold Wilson quote: "The main essentials of a successful prime minister are sleep and a sense of history." Only fifty of this cover are known to exist, reposted on 16/10/14 with official Royal Mail "Big Ben" postmark exactly fifty years to the day of his first election victory.Price £14

GB 32EP GREAT BRITAIN ACID RAIN ERROR STAMP A super GB stamp error has recently come to light. The error a "must" for any complete GB collection shows a "full stop" at the base of the 24p denomination. As it is a constant error only one such stamp appears in each sheet of 100 stamps. So, it is 99 times scarcer than the normal stamp (SG 1629) Many serious GB stamp collectors are now realising that their collections are incomplete without this important value denomination variety. We offer the Acid Rain error stamp, together with normal stamp for comparison.....Price £8.75

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Suspended Post in 1940

With the onset of hostilities between nations, postal services are disrupted and often suspended. In his regular postal history guide, Dane Garrod examines such an event, and the unlikely journeys of a cover sent in a time of conflict

The year 1940 was one of submission by European countries to the Nazi tyranny; on 28 June, France fell and mail services were suspended. The cover illustrated was addressed to Monte Carlo, A.M., France, and sent from Kelantan in Malaya on 25 June, 1940, as shown by a 'KOTA BHARU / KELANTAN' postmark of that day over a 12 cent stamp of the 'Chef's hat' issue. It was then sent by rail down to Singapore with the object of its journey continuing by sea. The postal authorities there opened it to check for any information that might be useful to the enemy, and re-sealed it, applying an oblong handstamp stating 'PASSED BY / CENSOR 113 / SINGAPORE' over the seal on the front, and two further identical handstamps over the seal on the reverse. Word had reached them that mail facilities to France were no longer possible, as any ship bringing mail would be at the mercy of the opposition forces of Germany.

A two-line handstamp reading 'POSTAL COMMUNICATION / SUSPENDED' was diagonally applied across the address on the front. Fortunately, Mrs Rawlings, the sender, had typed her name and address at the bottom, so a further handstamp was applied in Singapore that pointed with an arrow to the address, and said 'RETOUR'.

The postal authorities did just that, after it had arrived at the Dead Letter Office on 10 July, 1940, as indicated on the reverse by the oval handstamp 'DEAD LETTER OFFICE / SINGAPORE / 10 JUL 40'. Three days later it was back where it started in Kota Bharu, for the services there backstamped the envelope with another round handstamp saying 'KOTA BHARU / KELANTAN / 13JUL40'.

Is that all? Not a bit of it, for we have a further censor tape on the reverse; the large 'OPENED BY / EXAMINER 1280 / P.C.90'. This examiner was known to be in London, so how did this returned cover with contents arrive in London across war-torn Europe when mail was suspended? We believe we may have the answer, but are willing to hear from readers if they feel that another conjecture is more relevant and feasible. With the cover illustrated, we are fortunate that although the contents are no longer available, we do have the names of both the sender and potential receiver, and a degree of research

may well have ascertained what was enclosed, and how the envelope received review by a censor in London.

Mrs Elspeth Rawlings was the wife of the State Treasurer in Kelantan, and gave birth to a second son, Walter, at the Government Hospital in Kota Bharu on 20 June, five days before she addressed the letter to Monte Carlo. This we know from the births column announcement in the *Straits Times* of 21 June. Neither Mr or Mrs Rawlings were interned when the Japanese invaded and conquered Malaya and Singapore, and in fact, Elspeth Rawlings and her two sons were passengers on the P&O liner *Orion* when it took them from Singapore on 31 December, 1941, and arrived at Fremantle, Western Australia, six days later. There the trail runs cold for a while, except that the Rawlings returned to Kelantan in 1946 where the husband re-entered the Colonial Service, and finally, Mrs Rawlings as a widow was in Twickenham in the UK, before her death in 1974.

We now have the relevant background, so on to the probabilities. Mrs Rawlings would have received the returned letter, which would have given details of the birth of her son, but would be unable to advise the addressee, almost certainly the wife of Thaddeus Arathoon, an historian and prominent member of the Armenian community in Monte Carlo. When she left Malaya, the 'notice of birth' card would have gone with her, as she still wished to advise Mrs Arathoon. She may well have found out that the addressee had left Monte Carlo and was in a location where communications were possible. Then, putting the card and cover in a second envelope to the new address, perhaps with an explanatory note. This would have been opened by Examiner 1280 in the UK before being re-sealed for onward transmission to its destination. It is likely that Elspeth Rawlings sent similar cards to other friends around the world; she did in fact have two further sons between 1942 and 1946, but we do not know where the family were for these four years. Maybe you have, or have seen, a cover from Mrs Rawlings...

With thanks and acknowledgements to David Tett FRPSL who is the source of this 1940 cover, and for his assistance in unravelling the story.

Far left: Kota Bharu, Kelantan, Malaysia, where the letter was written

The cover was addressed to France but may have eventually arrived in London, as suggested by the large censor tape on the reverse

1 Our cover was sent from Kelantan in Malaya on 25 June, 1940, as shown by a 'KOTA BHARU / KELANTAN' postmark over a 12 cent stamp.

2 After arriving in Singapore by train, the cover was opened by censors and re-sealed, as indicated by the 'PASSED BY / CENSOR 113 / SINGAPORE' handstamp on the front, and two identical handstamps on the reverse.

3 With any ship bringing mail to France at the mercy of the Germans, the authorities added the two-line handstamp 'POSTAL COMMUNICATION / SUSPENDED'.

4 The sender had typed her name and address at the bottom, so a 'RETOUR' handstamp was applied in Singapore pointing to the address.

5 The postal authorities redirected the cover and it arrived at the Dead Letter Office on 10 July, 1940, as indicated on the reverse by the oval handstamp 'DEAD LETTER OFFICE / SINGAPORE / 10 JUL 40'.

6 Three days later it was back where it started in Kota Bharu, for the services there backstamped the envelope with another round handstamp saying 'KOTA BHARU / KELANTAN / 13JUL40'.

7 A further censor tape on the reverse reads 'OPENED BY / EXAMINER 1280 / P.C.90' pointing to a London censor. Mrs Rawlings perhaps placed the cover in a second envelope to the new address in the UK.

Legal issues

Every nation has its own laws and taboos, writes Paula Hammond, but the concept of justice is universal, making this an ideal theme for collectors. In fact, whether you view justice as a virtue or legal terminology, this is a thematic rich in variety and possibilities



Interestingly, the Scales of Justice are an almost ubiquitous image, dating back to Ancient Egypt, where Anubis was said to weigh the hearts of the dead to determine whether the deceased's soul was 'just'.

Stamps featuring Scales of Justice have therefore been issued by nations as far afield as Pakistan and the USA; Pakistan's 1948 definitives and the USA's 1961 4 cents Workmen's Compensation stamp are interesting issues.

Lady Justice, too, is pervasive, often depicted carrying a sword and scales to symbolise judgement and retribution. Again, the Lady dates back to Ancient Egypt although it was the Greek goddess Dike who was first portrayed carrying scales. On stamps, scales are often used as a visual 'short-hand' for Lady Justice. She rarely appears herself, although the Bolivian revenue stamps from 1870-74 are fine exceptions.

When hunting out justice stamps context is, of course, important. In 1961 Israel produced a series of twelve zodiac stamps that included Libra's scales. The scales here represent astrological balance, a time when the length of day and night are equal, rather than justice. However, when the Romans adopted the image, they linked Libra to Astraea, the Goddess of Justice. So whether these stamps are suitable for a justice thematic or not is for you to decide!

Halls of Justice (Monaco, 2004); Ministries of Justice (USA, 1873); Palaces of Justice

(Jordan, 2000); Ministers of Justice (Thailand, 1992); Charters of Justice (Australia, 1974); the Administration of Justice (Japan, 2009); and even Newspapers of Justice (North Korea, 1985) have all featured on postage stamps. But, perhaps, some of the most interesting issues aren't those focusing on the instrumentation of the judiciary, but the concept of justice itself.

Stamps from emerging nations, or those struggling through wars and revolutionary conflicts, frequently feature images and words celebrating peace, justice and freedom. Often these aren't great in terms of production values, but they are fascinating from a cultural and historic perspective, as they reflect the hopes of the new/emerging nations. Paraguay's 1903, 20 centavos 'Peace and Justice' stamp and St. Vincent's 1880 issue are notable examples. The St. Vincent issue is particularly appealing. This rare and beautiful stamp was the island's first high-value issue and saw Queen Victoria replaced with the colony's coat of arms. The image proved so popular that it was reused in 1907-09, 1938, 1955-63 and 1980.

As the USA reminded us in 2007 with their 'Jury Duty' stamp, and in 2012 with their 'Justice Forever' issue, justice isn't just a dusty old idea, it's a universal concept available to all. And this makes justice a compelling and potentially endless theme.



J is for Justice

Why Collect?

- Thematic rich in variety and possibilities.
- Includes stamps that celebrate anniversaries, institutions, people, and ideas.
- Opportunities to specialise on sub-topics such as Lady Justice, the Scales of Justice or Judicial Courts.
- Issues often reflect historical and culturally significant events.

Notable Releases

- 1870-74 - Bolivia 'Lady Justice' revenues.
- 1885 - St. Vincent 'Peace and Justice'.
- 1903 - Paraguay 20-centavos 'Peace and Justice'.
- 2010 - GB House of Stuart, 81p Scottish Justice stamp.
- 2012 - USA, 45-cents 'Justice Forever'.

Expand The Theme

The International Court of Justice in the Hague issues its own postage stamps. Produced since 1934, they are reserved for use on the Court's official mail and can be bought, mint, from TPG Post.

Collecting Links

Avion Stamps offers a superb selection of thematic stamps with a searchable online site. Look under 'law' and 'legal' for ideas and inspiration. www.avionstamps.com



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Our ancient ancestors

Discover how our long-ago ancestors lived and worked by collecting archaeology-related stamps which can cover a wide variety of themes, including the heyday of the Roman Empire, the age of the Pharaohs, and the emergence of the Industrial Age

Archaeology is the study of the past through material remains of any age – from ancient tools carved out by the first humans millions of years ago, to evidence of buried cities and ancient battles, and on to the remains of recently-built structures.

This is a huge subject, encompassing many different periods in time, from the age of the dinosaurs, to the early humans in the Stone Age and Iron Age, on to the medieval period and through to the twentieth century. If an era has physical remains, then these can be studied through archaeology.

Archaeologists use material remains to discover how and why societies emerged long before written records were kept, the reasons behind mass movements of population and the origins of agriculture and industry. The visual nature of archaeological remains lends itself strongly to stamp design, with scope for vibrant topics such as the Egyptian age, the Roman Empire, Viking remains and industrial achievements.

Archaeology-themed stamps are a fascinating way to discover both a country or continent's history and to learn what material remains a particular nation values. Many archaeology stamps feature historic sites of global importance, or material finds such as statues or burial items which demonstrate how a nation emerged, conquered or was conquered,



and developed into the country we know today.

The emergence of archaeology

Although material remains have been studied by historians for millennia, archaeology as a specific discipline evolved from the practice of antiquarianism. Moving on from simply collecting historic items in isolation and often out of context, early archaeologists from the 19th century onwards began to apply rules and standard practices to the items that they found, carefully recording material remains at their place of discovery, before painstakingly removing them for further analysis.

One of the first sites to be professionally excavated in a way which present-day archaeologists would recognise was Stonehenge, with 17th-century historian John Aubrey's field notes providing 20th-century archaeologists with detailed information to carry out the first site surveys.

Stonehenge has appeared on several

Archaeology stamps demonstrate how different nations preserve and value their material heritage

stamps over the years, with a United Nations Geneva stamp of 1992 featuring a colour photograph of the monument. The Maldives issued a Stonehenge souvenir sheet the same year as part of their 'mysteries of the universe' set.

Stonehenge's possible status as a site for early astronomy was recognised in the 1990 GB 'Astronomy' issue which featured a drawing of the stones beside a gyroscope and map of the stars.

Britain has released surprisingly few archaeology-themed stamps considering the country's contribution to world archaeology. Royal Mail's 1989 Industrial Archaeology four-stamp set reflected a growing interest in urban and industrial archaeology, with stamps featuring paintings of Ironbridge in Shropshire; the tin mine at St Agnes Head, Cornwall; the textile mill at New Lanark, Scotland; and the Pontcysyllte aqueduct in Wales.

In 2003, the 250th anniversary of the British Museum was marked with the release of six stamps featuring artefacts displayed strikingly on a black background, including a sculpture of Alexander the Great, the Sutton Hoo helmet and the coffin of Denytenanmun. Two years later, the UK and Australia released a joint World Heritage issue featuring photographs of world class archaeological sites including Stonehenge, Hadrian's Wall, the Heart of Neolithic Orkney site in Scotland, and Australia's Purnululu National Park.

The Save the Nubian Monuments campaign in the 1960s inspired dozens of countries to issue archaeology stamps showing the monuments



Saving the Nubian monuments

From the early 1960s through to the mid 1980s, countries including Egypt, Qatar, Morocco, Italy, Tunisia and Libya have featured Nubian monuments on their stamps.

The southern-eastern region of Nubia lies on the River Nile in Egypt and Sudan, and the region has been settled since at least 2000 BC. In 1959, the governments of Egypt and Sudan appealed to UNESCO for assistance in protecting and rescuing the ancient monuments and sites which stood on the site of the proposed Aswan High Dam.

An international campaign named Save the Monuments of Nubia was founded in 1960 in response to the heritage threat. This would turn into a twenty-year project which saw hundreds of historic sites recorded and excavated, thousands of monuments removed from the area, and the temple complexes of Abu Simbel and Philae moved to higher ground.

The importance of this project is reflected in the number of stamp issues over the twenty-year period, showing buildings, artefacts, maps, sculptures and people of the Nubian region. The year 1964 is a particularly strong year for such stamps, with issues from the Indonesian Republic, Laos, Niger, Pakistan, Tunisia and the Vatican.

New technology

The years following World War Two saw big changes in archaeology, as bomb damage prompted a new interest in excavating towns and cities, often for the first time. At the same time, new technology was starting to make its way into the field, allowing archaeology to become more professional and accurate, through innovations such as radiocarbon



Stamps can show landmarks in archaeological history, such as the deciphering of hieroglyphics, shown on the Monaco stamp below, or the 250th anniversary of the British Museum (above)

dating, LIDAR surveying and the use of radar.

With this new technology came a fresh pride in national heritage, as new museums opened and historic sites achieved World Heritage status. Indeed, World Heritage makes a fascinating sub theme, with hundreds of stamps highlighting the archaeological history of different countries. Good examples include Egypt's 2008 Environment Day stamp showing Egypt's oldest World Natural Heritage site – Wadi El Hitan in Egypt; Sweden's 2002 World Heritage stamps; the Archaeological Finds in Lichtenstein series, which had new additions in 2014; and Mexico's long-running Archaeology series which ran from 1950 to 1975 and again from 2007 to the present day.

Egyptian archaeology

Perhaps one of the most famous

world archaeologies is that of Egypt, with the country's pyramids, mummies and hieroglyphics well known to generations of school pupils around the world. Egypt's colourful history makes for memorable stamps and, as you would expect, the country itself has issued dozens of archaeology-related stamps over the years, with highlights including a 1959 airmail stamp showing the Netefari Temple (a monument featured by several different countries) and a 1972 stamp to mark the 150th anniversary of the deciphering of the Egyptian hieroglyphs.

France also marked this landmark with a stamp showing hieroglyphs on the Rosetta Stone and a portrait of Jean-Francois Champollion, the French scholar who carried out the deciphering work. Champollion's 200th birth anniversary was marked by Monaco in 1990 with a stamp featuring his portrait alongside Egyptian artefacts.

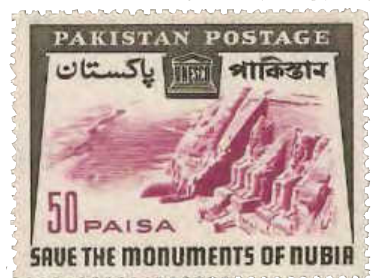
Archaeologists

The contribution of archaeologists to the field has also been recognised on stamps over the decades. One of the most recent was Sri Lanka's 2015 issue marking the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Department of Archaeology in Sri Lanka. The stamp features HCP Bell (1851-1937) who was the first archaeological commissioner of Sri Lanka, whose portrait is featured in front of a background of the Sigiri frescoes, which he helped to save.

One of the oldest stamps featuring an archaeologist is Ecuador's 1935 stamps showing Charles Darwin, the scientist whose theory of evolution helped to influence generations of archaeologists. Darwin's portrait has also featured on British stamps three times – in the 2009 issue to mark his 200th birth anniversary, four 1982 stamps to mark his death anniversary and on a 2006 stamp which was part of a set marking the 150th anniversary of the National Portrait Gallery.

German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann, who carried out major excavations of the city Troy was celebrated on a 1990 German stamp, whilst in 2012, a four-stamp set from Poland marked the 150th anniversary





of Polish archaeology in Egypt, showing notable Egyptian discoveries made by Polish archaeologists.

The year 1994 had the Europa theme 'great discoveries' which prompted several European countries to issue stamps relating to archaeological discoveries. Jersey's four-stamp set was particularly attractive, showing ancient islanders killing a woolly mammoth and building a huge stone monument, as well as the interior of a prehistoric monument.

Sub themes

One of the simplest ways to decide on a sub theme is to collect archaeology stamps relating to a particular era – prehistory, ancient societies or the Middle Ages. Or you could specialise in the stamps of one branch of archaeology such as maritime, underwater, urban archaeology or industrial archaeology.

Another way to specialise is to collect archaeology stamps issued by one country or continent, using stamps to trace a nation's history and heritage, and showing how national pride is expressed through stamps featuring historic monuments or sites.

You could also collect stamps which show the history of archaeology as a discipline, with prominent archaeologists, landmark excavations and important finds.

Archaeology is a vibrant and developing discipline with new technology emerging every year and so this is a topic which will provide interest and pleasure for years to come.

Ten stamps on... postal history

We celebrate 500 years of the Royal Mail with a look at how different countries have recognised landmark moments in the history of postal services

1 Sudan's camel postman has appeared on several stamps since its first inception in 1897 including a design by military leader Captain Edward Stanton. Stanton's admission that he 'accidentally' designed the stamp in a rush did nothing to dent its popularity.

2 The year 1911 saw the world's first airmail service, with an aeroplane appearing on a stamp for the first time a year later, on a 20c US parcel post stamp. This 2011 stamp from France marks the airmail centenary and features Henri Piquet, a French pilot who took part in the first ever airmail flight.

3 In 1958, Russia marked the centenary of Russian postage stamps with this colourful stamp featuring a mounted mail carrier blowing a horn.

4 America's vast size and varied terrain has given it a rich postal history. This 1960 stamp marks the centenary of the Pony Express and shows a rider storming his way from Missouri to Sacramento.

5 The technology of automatic sorting, which began in Holland in 1931 and reached Britain four years later, was celebrated on this 1969 GB stamp titled Postal Mechanisation.

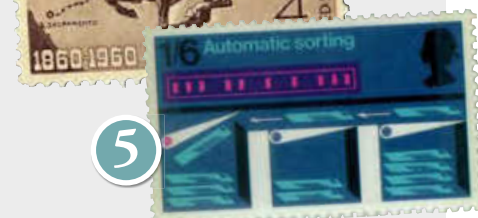
6 A mail coach and horses makes a striking and dramatic subject for a stamp, as demonstrated by this 1971 stamp from Sweden.

7 The year 1974 saw a flurry of issues to mark the centenary of the Universal Postal Union. A common theme was that of flight, as shown on this striking Australian stamp by John Copeland, featuring three birds carrying letters.

8 Jersey Post's long-running postal history series has produced some gems, including a 2002 six-stamp set to mark the 150th anniversary of the first roadside British postbox, installed in Jersey in 1852.

9 Europa's 2013 postal vehicles theme gave countries the chance to showcase both bygone and modern post vehicles. Latvia's stamps showed an old horse and carriage and mail train, plus modern-day vehicles.

10 The world's first postage stamp has featured on the stamps of many countries, such as this German stamp from 1990 issued to mark 150 years of postage stamps.



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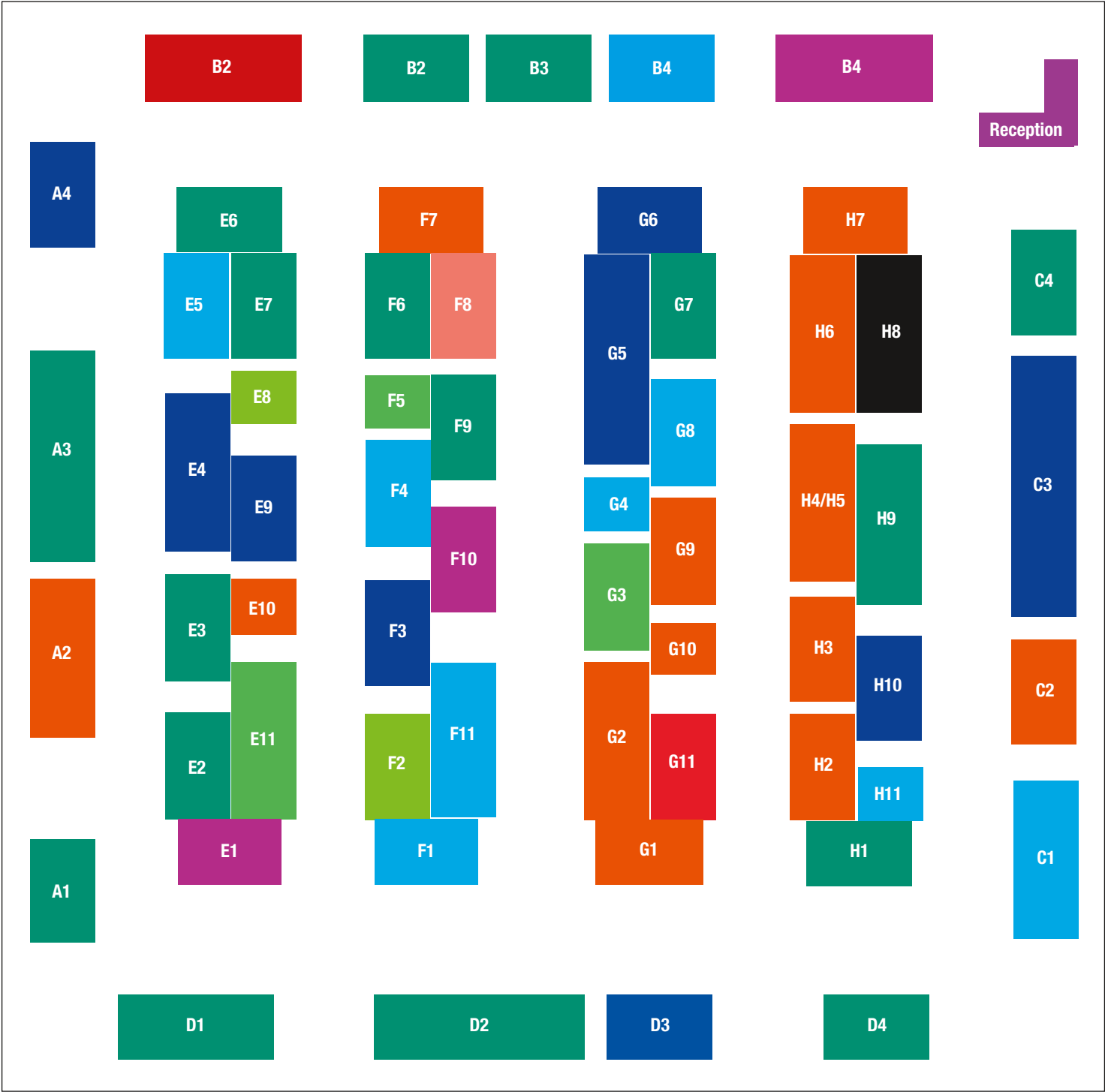
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D2 Steve Allen	F2 Cambridge Philatelic Auctions	G5 Ray Watts	H11 Simon Burke (Allworldph.com)

Society news

At the recent **Rochdale Philatelic Society** meeting, member David Hudson gave a presentation entitled 'What stamps are used for' based on GB stamps and covers from 1840 to the early 1900s. Stamp denominations were based on a 1d standard postal rate and a range of values according to weight and distance. Overseas rates were continually rising and falling according to political factors. In 1875 the UK joined the U.P.U. which standardised the overseas rates at 2½d for member states. New members are welcome and meetings are held at the Rochdale Unitarian Church on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. For society details contact Neil on tel: 01706 665698; e-mail: neil.wharmby@gmail.com

York Philatelic Society member Mike Lewis recently presented a display entitled 'A postal history of "killed in action" during the 1st World War'. Meetings are held in the Denham Room of The Priory Centre, Priory Street, York. Guests are welcome, and refreshments

will be available. For society details contact Richard M. Billinge, tel: 01904 411455.

With the pending opening of The Postal Museum in London, the BPMA has been re-named as The Postal Museum. With this in mind, Friends of the British Postal Museum & Archive recently voted to change the name of the organisation to the Friends of The Postal Museum (FTPM). Activities proposed for 2016 include a return visit to Cartor, the arm of International Security Printers based near Paris; a visit to the College of Arms, Apsley House and a return to the London Transport Museum to see the poster collection. Brian Livingstone, Trustee of the FTPM, said: 'These are exciting times both for all involved with The Postal Museum and Mail Rail, and for the Friends in supporting and encouraging this major project.' For details about becoming a Friend, visit the website: www.postalheritage.org.uk/page/friends or write to: Friends of the Postal Museum, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL.

The latter part of the year saw a number of guest displays at **Dundee and District Philatelic Society** with a wide variance in topics. In October husband and wife team Jean and Crawford Alexander of the GBPS displayed 'Surprises in GB' and 'Postcards of Steamers', respectively. In November Jimmy Crawford of Bearsden & District PS gave two widely differing displays, one relating to golf courses and the other a collection of covers related to the Glasgow Penny Post issued between 1829 and 1840. The month ended with visits by members of Perth PS when Ian Smith displayed Ceylon 'Chalons', Tony Cochrane displayed postcards mainly from Queen Victoria period, and Paul Stephens provided a display of Sudan Air Mail from 1931-35. The year ended with a one-page competition and members' displays of recent acquisitions. The competition was won by Sandy Sloss with his entry of an 1845 cover from Dalmellington to Ayr which Sandy discovered had connections to his family.

Bromley & Beckenham Philatelic Society's recent meeting in 2015 was a President's Evening and saw Ian Reed show his St Helena material, the President then gave his display of St Lucia.

STAMP FAIRS

3 March 2016

Cirencester

The Bingham Hall, King Street
GL7 1JT; 01283 820151

5 March 2016

Basingstoke

Crossborough Hill RG21 4AL
01256 415669

Beckenham

Azelia Hall, 258 Croydon Road
0208 395 9285

Billingshurst

Community Centre, Roman Way
RH14 9EW; 01903 244875

Leicester

Holiday Inn, St Nicholas Circle
0116 235 0441

Liverpool

St Columba Church Hall, Hillfoot
Road, Hunts Cross L25 0NR
01226 765069

Stourbridge

Platters Cafe, Victoria Street DY8
1SP; 07813 260753

York

Wigginton Recreation Hall, The
Village, Wigginton YO32 2PJ
07742 153669

11 March 2016

Farnborough

Farnborough Leisure Centre,
Westmead GU14 7LD

12 March 2016

Colwyn Bay

Eirias School, Eirias Road
LL29 7SP; 01745 826434

Derby

Nunsfield House Community Hall,
33 Boulton Road, Alvaston
DE24 0FD
01909 563394

Farnborough

Farnborough Leisure Centre,
Westmead GU14 7LD

Stockton on Tees

Methodist Church Hall, Norton
Road TS20 2QQ
07742 153669

Weston Super Mare

Victoria Methodist Church Hall,
Station Road BS23 1XU
01749 677669

13 March 2016

Ormskirk

The Guide HQ, Moorgate
L39 4RT; 01226 765069

18 March 2016

London

Royal National Hotel, Bedford
Way WC1H 0DG
0208 946 4489

19 March 2016

Bilsborrow

Bilsborrow Village Hall PR3 0RP
01226 765069

Bridgwater

Westfield United Reformed
Church Hall, West Street
TA6 7EU
01278 691755

Brighton

Good Shepherd Hall, Dyke Road
BN1 5AE
01903 244875

Hull

St Stephen's Church Hall,
Freehold Street, off Spring Bank
HU3 1RB
01909 563394

20 March 2016

Dronfield

Coal Aston Village Hall, Coal
Aston, near Sheffield
S18 3AY; 01909 563394

26 March 2016

Dundee

St Aidan's Centre, 408 Brook
Street DD5 2EB
01674 832823

Leeds

St Mary's Church Hall,
Commercial Street, Morley
LS27 8HZ
01909 563394

27 March 2016

Doncaster

Park Social Club, Eden Grove
Road, Edenthorpe DN3 2LS
01909 563394

28 March 2016

Beverley

Norwood Methodist Church Hall,
Norwood HU17 9HN
01909 563394

29 March 2016

Stockport

Masonic Guildhall, Wellington
Road SK1 3XE
01283 820151

At a recent **Chelmsford & District Philatelic Society** meeting members brought items with a Christmas theme including Christmas cards from Hong Kong, Norway and posted in advance in Britain; charity seals from Rhodesia and Norway; Christmas stamps from the Channel Islands, Switzerland and the NAAFI in Egypt. For society details contact John Rawlins on tel: 01245 420196; e-mail: john@jr226.plus.com

There was a record attendance of 210 at the meeting of **The Royal Philatelic Society London** in December at which The Great Britain Philatelic Society celebrated its Diamond Jubilee. The very first meeting of the GBPS was also held at the Royal in December 1955. No fewer than 46 members of the GBPS provided displays that President of the Royal, Frank Walton, described as 'fantastic'. This was a view reiterated by Alan Moorcroft giving the vote of thanks, who congratulated all those who had displayed such 'wonderful material'. Those wishing to visit The Royal Philatelic Society London at 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY, or be a guest at one of its meetings, are asked to contact in advance the Administrative Office on 020 7486 1044.

SPOTLIGHT ON

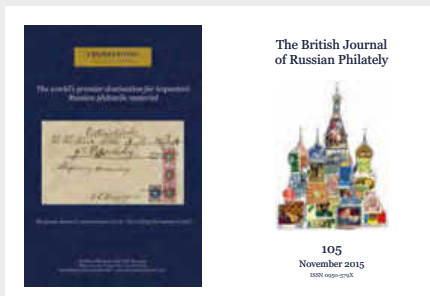
The British Society of Russian Philately

The BSRP, founded in 1936 by the late Dr A.H. Wortman, is a worldwide community of philatelists who collect and study the stamps and postal history of the entire Russian philatelic area including Imperial Russia, its post offices abroad, the civil war, the USSR, Baltic states and the modern post Soviet republics. There is also significant interest in the local Zemstvo posts as well as revenue and Cinderella material.

Today, the society has some 300 members around the world who keep in touch via the group's *BJRP* journal, an online forum and regular London meetings. The Society's website has an image gallery, an archive of journal articles and details of upcoming events. Membership is £20 per year. For more information, e-mail: mail@bsrp.org or visit: www.bsrp.org



The society's journal BJRP keeps members up to date on the latest in Russian philatelic news



30 March 2016

Birmingham

Birmingham Irish Centre, 14-20 High Street, Deritend B12 0LN
01283 820151

STAMP AUCTIONS

2 March 2016

Warwick

Warwick & Warwick
The Court House, Jury Street
CV34 4EJ; 01926 499031
www.warwickandwarwick.com

9 March 2016

Accrington

AJH Stamps Ltd
The Laurels, Manchester Road
01909 563394
www.ajhstamps.co.uk

17 March 2016

London

Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions
399-401 Strand WC2R 0LT

0207 379 8789

www.grosvenorauctions.com

19 March 2016

Worthing

Worthing Stamp Auctions
The Richmond Room, Town Hall,
Chapel Road BN11 1UN
01903 235846
www.worthingstamps.com

21 March 2016

Edinburgh

Robert Murray
Stewart's Melville Club Pavilion,
Ferry Road EH5 2DW
0131 552 1220
www.stamp-shop.com

26 March 2016

Southampton

Southampton Philatelic Auctions,
Pear Tree Church Hall,
80 Peartree Road, Bitterne
SO19 7GU
02380 448373
www.sotonphil.co.uk

30 March 2016

London

Brian Reeve Stamp Auctions
Unit 120, Trident Business
Centre, Tooting SW17 9SH
0208 672 6702
www.brian-reeve.com

COIN FAIRS

12 March 2016

Weston Super Mare

Victoria Methodist Church Hall,
Station Road BS23 1XU
01749 677669

13 March 2016

Birmingham

National Motorcycle Museum,
Bickenhill B92 0EJ;
01694 731781

27 March 2016

Wakefield

Cedar Court Hotel, Denby Dale
Rd, Calder Grove, WF4 3QZ

COIN AUCTIONS

21 March 2016

London

Dix Noonan Webb
16 Bolton Street, Mayfair
W1J 8BQ
0207 016 1700
www.dnw.co.uk

22 March 2016

London

Spink
69 Southampton Row,
Bloomsbury WC1B 4ET
0207 563 4000
www.spink.com

POSTCARD AUCTIONS

16 March 2016

Warwick

Warwick & Warwick
The Court House, Jury Street
CV34 4EJ
01926 499031
www.warwickandwarwick.com

POSTCARD FAIRS

5 March 2016

Beckenham

Azelia Hall, 258 Croydon Road
0208 395 9285

Inverurie

West Church Hall, West High
Street AB51 3SA
01674 832823

York

Wigginton Recreation Hall,
The Village, Wigginton YO32 2PJ
07742 153669

12 March 2016

Colwyn Bay

Eirias School, Eirias Road
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Please check details with the event organisers before attending.

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In-depth listings

Your comprehensive guide to the latest new stamps from around the world

GREAT BRITAIN

(listed in every issue)

001 Post and Go labels. Winter Fur and Feathers, four designs depicting wildlife in winter

Issue date: November 16, 2015; Design: Osborne Ross, from linocut prints by Robin Gillmor; Printer (basic label): International Security Printers, gravure; Coding / denomination and date thermographically in black by the machine. Non-denominated. Self-adhesive labels:

- † – Mountain Hare
- † – Red Fox
- † – Redwing (bird)
- † – Red Squirrel

Notes: sold philatelically as a set of preprinted 2nd Class (hare and redwing) and 1st Class (fox and squirrel) on a card

002 Star Wars (film series), second issue.

Booklet

Issue date: December 17, 2015

Design: Interabang, from illustrations by David Holmes (Star Wars characters). Machin Stamps designed by Jeffery Matthews. Flag stamp designed by Dick Davis. Self-adhesive Vehicles and Space Ship stamps designed by GBH after Malcolm Tween. Printer: International Security Printers. Perforations: 14.5 x 14.25, or 14.75 x 14 with elliptical cut-outs on vertical sides (Machin and flag stamps). Self-adhesive stamps die-cut 14.25 (approx).

Prestige Booklet (sold at £16.99): contains five stamp panes, width 161mm x depth 96mm Pane, 6 x 1st (se-tenant) Star Wars characters Darth Vader; Obi-Wan Kenobi; Boba Fett; Finn; Kylo Ren; Rey

Pane (self-adhesive), 3 x 1st Vehicles and Space Ships, X-Wing Starfighter, going left; AT-AT Walkers; The black Fighters

Pane (self-adhesive), 3 x 1st Vehicles and Space Ships, The Fighters (new); X-Wing Starfighter, going right; Millennium Falcon

Pane of eight stamps and one label: 1st Union Flag x 4 copies; 1st Machin in red x 2 copies; 2nd Machin in blue x 2 copies

(single phosphor band)

Pane, 6 x 1st (se-tenant) Star Wars characters Han Solo; Princess Leia; Luke Skywalker; The Emperor (Sith Lord); Yoda; a Stormtrooper

Notes: all panes have illustrated borders. The Star Wars character panes have blocks of six designs (3 x 2), ie se-tenant combinations differing from the sheet stamp issue of October 20, 2015

The Machins have security overlay coding M15L/MPIL, not used in any previous stamp product

ASCENSION

(previously listed in October 2015 issue)

003 Bicentenary of British Settlement, part four, four values

Issue date: October 22, 2015;

Design: Bee Design, with Bicentenary logo by Lawrence Kneath; Printer: BDT, offset; Perforations: 14.15 x 13.85

- 35p – King George III, King of Britain and Ireland
- 50p – Flag of Ascension Island, Bicentenary of Settlement logo
- 55p – Crest of Ascension Island (shield flanked by two turtles), Bicentenary of Settlement logo
- £1.60 – Queen Elizabeth II, photographed by Tim Graham, Bicentenary of Settlement logo

004 300th anniversary of the Death of William Dampier, four values

Issue date: December 1, 2015; Design: Robin Carter; Printer: BDT, offset, in sheets of ten; Perforations: 13.85 x 14.15

- 25p – William Dampier, sailor, naval officer and explorer, on board HMS *Roebuck*
- 35p – HMS *Roebuck* at sea, on return leg of voyage of exploration to New Holland (Australia)
- £1.00 – HMS *Roebuck* grounded off Ascension, the crew offloading possessions and goods using rafts
- £1.60 – Diver finds the ship's bell of HMS *Roebuck* (Western Australian Maritime Museum Expedition of 2001)

Notes: the Roebuck had great problems with leaks in the hull, due to worm-eaten plank; on reaching Ascension on February 21, 1701, Dampier decided to beach and abandon the ship. The crew were marooned on the island for five weeks until being picked up by a passing East Indiaman

BAHAMAS

(previously listed in February 2016 issue)

005 Christmas 2015, four values

Issue date: November 19, 2015;

Design: Robin Carter; Printer: Cartor, France; Perforations: 13.5 x 13.25

- 15c – Mary and Joseph with the infant Jesus
- 50c – The shepherds tending their flocks
- 65c – The Three Kings present their gifts
- 70c – Cattle, sheep and donkey with Jesus in a manger

FRANCE

(previously listed in December 2015 issue)

006 World Equestrian Games, Normandy,

two miniature sheets in differing formats

Issue date: August 23, 2014; Design: B Perchey and K Petrossian (drawings); Printing: PhilaPoste, gravure; Perforations 13 x 13 Miniature sheet: format height 143mm x width 160mm, contains eight stamps

- €0.61 – Dressage
- €0.61 – Endurance
- €0.61 – Eventing
- €0.61 – Para-dressage
- €1.02 – Acrobatics (trick-rider doing handstand on back of horse)
- €1.02 – Four-in-hand racing (carriage crossing stream)
- €1.02 – Show-jumping
- €1.02 – Reining (western riding)

Miniature sheet: format height 195mm x width 198mm, contains two stamps

- €1.02 – Acrobatics (trick-rider)
- €1.02 – Four-in-hand racing

Notes: Stamps in both sheets are separately spaced (not se-tenant). The two-stamp sheet was sold in an illustrated folder at €6.00

007 Centenary of the death of Charles Peguy, 1873-1914, one value

Issue date: September 5, 2014; Design and engraving: Claude Jumelet; Printing: recess, PhilaPoste; Perforations: 13 x 13

- €1.55 – Portrait drawing of the writer by Egon Schiele (1914, Austria)

008 Renaissance Art,

twelve self-adhesive values in a booklet

Issue date: September 6, 2014; Design: Etienne Théry; Printer: PhilaPoste, gravure; Perforations: die-cut 11 x 11. Non-denominated, inscribed 'LETTRE VERTE 20g'

Self-adhesive booklet (€8.16): stamps are affixed 4/4/4 to inside covers

- (€0.61) Formal gardens at Château Villandry
- (€0.61) Gros-Horloge (Great Clock) at Rouen
- (€0.61) Henri II staircase in the Louvre Palace, Paris (detail of mouldings)
- (€0.61) Carving of a salamander from the



003



004



005



006

Gallery of Francis I at
Château Fontainebleau

- (€0.61) Bouclier (Shield) of Charles IX (detail)
- (€0.61) Tapestry Jupiter et Latrone, owned by Diana the Countess of Poitiers (1499-1556)
- (€0.61) King Francis I, a portrait painted by Jean Clouet, 1480-1541
- (€0.61) Stained glass window from Cathedral of St Étienne at Sens, depicting an angel flautist
- (€0.61) Enamelled portrait of Odysseus (Ulysses) by Léonard of Limousin, from Château d'Écouen
- (€0.61) Book binding with gold blocking, by Etienne Roffet, Lyon
- (€0.61) Armour of King Henri II, by Elieenne Delaune, 1518-1595, with mythological figure
- (€0.61) White stoat, the emblem of Anne of Brittany, in a stained glass window at Blois

009 Centenary of the Battle of the Marne, two miniature sheets

Issue date: September 12, 2014; Design: Bruno Ghiringhelli, after illustrations by Romain Hagault; Printer: PhilaPoste, gravure; Perforations: 13 x 13.3

Miniature sheet: format

height 85mm x width 130mm

- €0.66 Parisian motor taxi transporting troops to the front
- €0.98 – Mounted bugler of the French Cavalry sounding orders

Border depicts a bi-plane and poppy-field

Miniature sheet: format height

95mm x width 200mm

- €0.66 – Parisian motor taxi transporting troops
- €0.98 – Mounted bugler of the French Cavalry

Border depicts battle scene (from print)

The larger miniature sheet was sold in a card folder at €5.00

010 Modern Art. Keith Haring, 1958-1990, one value

Issue date: September 19, 2014; Design: Lunel Dune; Printer: PhilaPoste, gravure; Perforations: 12.25 x 13

- €2.65 – Sick children, a wall mural (designed graffiti) by the American artist at the Necker Hospital in Paris

011 Stamp Exhibition Salon Planète

Timbres 2014, Paris, ten self-adhesive values in a booklet

Issue date: September 25, 2014; Designs are previously issued stamps, with some design,

glue and denomination revisions. Printing: gravure, PhilaPoste; Perforations: die-cut 11 Stamp booklet (€8.44):

- €0.66 – Book illustration of Gideon Duck and his friends, by Benjamin Rabier
- €1.10 – Self-portrait by Benjamin Rabier, author and illustrator, 1864-1939
- €0.66 – Dance band musicians of the 1950s
- €0.61 – Philatelic Congress 2014 at the Institute de France, Paris: view of building. Has adjacent label showing Seine bridge
- €1.65 – La Seine au pont du Carrousel, a painting by Jean Dufy, 1888-1964
- €0.61 – Tourism. View of Coaraze, Alpes-Maritimes
- €0.61 – Tourism. Le Grand Menhir de Locmarquer, Brittany (dolmen)
- €0.66 – Cars of the 1950s: a Panhard Dyna (1953) and a Peugeot 203
- €0.61 – Jean Jaurès, socialist peace campaigner (died 1914). Portrait (blue)
- €1.02 – Jean Jaurès speaking at a public rally (red)

Notes: stamps are listed in the order they appear in the booklet in two rows of five (separately spaced, plain white surround)

012 Greetings. L'Odorat (The Sense of Smell), twelve self-adhesive values in a booklet

Issue date: October 1, 2014; Design: Corinne Salvi, after illustrations by Emmanuelle Houdart; Printer: PhilaPoste, gravure; Perforations: 11 x 11; Non-denominated, inscribed 'Lettre Verte 20g' Stamp Booklet (€7.32):

- (€0.61) 'Effleuve amoureuses' (the scent of love): couple (the man in a hat) and pink hearts
- (€0.61) 'Flairer un trace': bloodhound following tracks
- (€0.61) 'Le fumer de poisson': brightly patterned fish
- (€0.61) 'Renard et renarde par'odeur alléchés': fox and vixen with cheeses (in form of gruyère and brie)
- (€0.61) 'L'arôme du café' (the smell of coffee): cup being filled from coffee jug, croissants
- (€0.61) 'Putois apeurés bouchez-vous le nez' (scared skunks! – obstruct your nose): two skunks and plants
- (€0.61) 'L'odeur de poulet rôti' (the smell of roast chicken): chicken in roasting dish which has face
- (€0.61) 'Le parfum de la rose': woman smelling oversize pink rose
- (€0.61) 'Fragrances': perfume bottle

spraying perfume

- (€0.61) 'Solution pour odorat délicat': trainer (training shoe) planted with flowers
- (€0.61) 'Respirer l'amour': mother and baby
- (€0.61) 'Plantes aromatiques': face of woman and garlic bulb, cloves, onion and three herbs

013 300th anniversary of the Move of the Parliament of Flanders to Douai, and 230th anniversary of the New Palace of Justice in Douai, one value

Issue date: October 3, 2014; Design and engraving: Martin Mörrck; Printer: PhilaPoste, recess; Perforations 13 x 13

- €0.83 – Façade of the reconstructed Palace of Justice and Registry (1784) Scarpe river, and building of the Abbey of Marchiennes, converted to the Parliament in 1714

014 The Green Turtle, one value

Issue date: October 9, 2014; Design: Claude Perchat; Printer: PhilaPoste, offset; Perforations: 13 x 13
€0.98 – Green sea turtle, *Chelonia mydas*
Notes: joint issue with Seychelles and Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoro Islands and TAAF

015 Day of the Stamp. Dance, one value and a miniature sheet

Issue date: October 11, 2014; Design: Line Filhon; Printer: PhilaPoste, recess (sheet stamp) or offset with varnish layer (miniature sheet); Perforations 13.1 x 13.1 or 13.2 x 13.2 (miniature sheet)

- €0.61 Salsa dancers and drums
- Miniature sheet €2.45 – Breakdancers, a street mural by Christian Guérny, in rue Antoine Marie Colin, Vitry-sur-Seine (from photograph)

016 Maximilien Vox, 1874-1974, Designer and Typographer, one value

Issue date: October 17, 2014; Design and engraving: Louis Boursier; Printer: PhilaPoste, recess; Perforations: 13.25 x 13.25

- €1.10 Portrait of Maximilien Vox (Samuel William Théodore Monod), journalist and designer

Notes: Known for his creation of typographical styles such as Humanes, Old Face, Modernes Face, Réales and Incises and editorship of the typographical journal Character, 1851-1964. Also for his book covers for detective series The Mask

017 La Nouvelle France Industrielle:

components, innovations and trade, twelve self-adhesive values in a booklet, and one value in sheets
Issue date: October 24, 2014; Design: Christelle Guénot; Printer: PhilaPoste, gravure (booklet), or offset (sheet); Perforations: die-cut 11 x 11
Self-adhesive booklet (€7.32): symbolical designs inscribed LETTRE VERTE 20g
– (€0.61) 'Usine de futur'
– (€0.61) 'Transition numerique'
– (€0.61) 'Développement durable'
– (€0.61) 'Patrimoine'
– (€0.61) 'Elégance'
– (€0.61) 'Gastronomie'
– (€0.61) 'Électromobilité'
– (€0.61) 'Exportations'
– (€0.61) 'Gastronomie'
– (€0.61) 'Transition énergétique'
– (€0.61) 'Métiers d'Art'
– (€0.61) 'Innovation 2030'
Sheetlet of twelve stamps: inscribed MONDE 20g – (0.95€) x twelve copies – La Nouvelle France Industrielle (graphic of blue dots)

018 Greetings: Happy New Year All Year

Round!, twelve self-adhesive values in a booklet
Issue date: October 24, 2014; Design from cartoon illustrations by PEF and Corinne Salvi; Printer: PhilaPoste, gravure; Die-cut perf 11.
Self-adhesive booklet (€7.32):
– (€0.61) Bonne Année: young man and woman celebrating
– (€0.61) Bonne Voyage: four mode transporter
– (€0.61) Bravo: two doves
– (€0.61) Devinez: family playing guessing game
– (€0.61) C'est Grand, bientôt? – boy and girl in a scrap
– (€0.61) Coucou, c'est moi: baby juggling sun and moon shapes
– (€0.61) Bonnes Fêtes: Santa, and child, with chocolate egg
– (€0.61) Coeur à coeur: couple each with part of heart
– (€0.61) Mais qui M'écrit?: children holding up flash cards
– (€0.61) Un petit mot doux... d'où?: child writing with quill pen
– (€0.61) Joyeux anniversaire: girl in an old man's beard
– (€0.61) Vives les vacances: birds in flight, one with passenger

FRANCE – COUNCIL OF EUROPE

019 50th anniversary of the adoption of the European Cultural Convention, one value
Issue date: October 3, 2014; Design: Stéphanie Ghinéa; Printer: PhilaPost, offset; Perforations:

12.9 x 12.9

€0.98 Agora Building of the Council of Europe, in Strasbourg

020 50th anniversary of le direction

Européenne de la Qualité du Médicalent, one value

Issue date: October 3, 2014;

Design: Stéphanie Ghinéa; Printer: PhilaPost, gravure; Perforations: 13.1 x 12.9

€0.83 '50' with zero containing a drug capsule, graphic text 'edQm Santé!' and title of the Directive

FRANCE -UNESCO

021 UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The Trulli of Alberobello

, one value

Issue date: November 8, 2014; Design: Jean-Paul Vêret-Lemarinier, and Aurélie Baras;

Printer: PhilaPoste, offset; Perforations: 13 x 13

€0.83 – Trulli (drystone constructed houses with conical or domed roofs), Alberobello, Puglia, Italy

022 Endangered Species. The Hyacinth Macaw

, one value

Issue date: November 8, 2014; Design: Jean-Paul Vêret-Lemarinier, and Aurélie Baras;

Printer: PhilaPoste, offset; Perforations: 13 x 13

€0.98 Hyacinth Macaw, *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*, from Brazil

GREECE

(previously listed in February 2016 issue)

023 Europa 2014. Musical Instruments

, two values in two formats

Issue date: May 18, 2014; Design: Myrsini Vardopoulou; Printer: Joh. Enschedé, Netherlands, offset; Perforations: 13.25 x 13.75 or imperf x 13.75 (booklet stamps)

(A) sheet stamps: sheets of sixteen (eight se-tenant pairs)

0.90€ – Bouzouki player

3.40€ – Ancient lyre player

(B) stamp booklet (€8.40): contains single pane, a strip of four (two se-tenant pairs)

0.90€ x 2 – Bouzouki player

3.40€ x 2 – Ancient lyre player

024 FIFA Football World Cup Finals 2014, Brazil

, two values in a sheetlet, and two miniature sheets

Issue date: June 12, 2014; Design: Myrsini Vardopoulou; Printer: Joh. Enschedé, offset;

Perforations: 13.2 x 13.85

Sheetlet of eight stamps (two values x four each, se-tenant): contains

€0.90 – Mascot with ball (cartoon)

€1.30 – Player kicking a ball,

in silhouette, and fireworks

Miniature sheet – €0.90 Mascot with ball (cartoon)

Miniature sheet – €1.30 Player kicking a ball, in silhouette, and fireworks

025 Bicycles

, four values, miniature sheets,

and two self-adhesive values in stamp booklets

Issue date: June 12, 2014;

Design: Marina Lasithiotaki; Printer: Joh.

Enschede, offset; Perforations: 13.6 x 13.1, or die-cut 13.6 (self-adhesives)

Sheet stamps (gummed, in sheets of 25):

€0.72 – Child's bicycle, and children in a play area

€0.72 – Mountain bike, and riders on lakeside trailway

€0.80 – Women's city bicycle, and cyclists on town street

€2.00 – Folding bicycle, and city tram

Miniature sheet €0.72 – Child's bicycle, and children in a play area

Miniature sheet €0.72 – Mountain bike, and riders on lakeside trailway

Miniature sheet €0.80 – Women's city bicycle, and cyclists on town street

Miniature sheet €2.00 –

Folding bicycle, and city tram

Self-adhesive booklet (€7.20) –

€0.72 x ten copies – Mountain bike, and riders on lakeside trailway

Self-adhesive booklet (€8.00) –

€0.80 x ten copies – Women's city bicycle, and cyclists on town street

Notes: the miniature sheets were sold in a Presentation Pack

026 EuroMed Postal Cooperation

, one value

Issue date: July 9, 2014; Design: Amany

Ahmed Ali (Egypt); Printer: Giesecke & Devrient

Matsoukis, Athens, offset; Perforations: 13.25

x 13.75

€3.00 – Relief map of the Mediterranean, and EuroMed Postal Organisation logo

027 Tourism

, three non-denominated self-adhesive values

Issue date: August 8, 2014; Designs: after

photographs; Printer: Giesecke & Devrient

Matsoukis, Athens, offset; Perforations: die-cut 13.75 x 13.75

Self-adhesive booklet (€8.00) –

€0.80 x ten copies – Santorini: view of island's distinctive blue churches

Self-adhesive booklet (€8.00) –

€0.80 x ten copies – Rhodes: entrance to the port, with ships and columns bearing statues of Elafos and Elafina

Self-adhesive booklet (€8.00) –



007



008



009



010



€0.80 x ten copies – Fishing boat, flying the Greek flag



028 **Tourism**, three non-denominated gummed values, in personalisable sheetlets

Issue date: August 8, 2014; Designs: after photographs; Printer: Giesecke & Devrient Matsoukis, Athens, offset; Perforations: 14 x 13.75

Sheetlet: ten stamps and ten labels

€0.80 – Santorini: view of island's distinctive blue churches

Sheetlet: ten stamps and ten labels

€0.80 – Rhodes: entrance to the port, with ships and columns bearing statues of Elafos and Elafina

Sheetlet: ten stamps and ten labels

€0.80 – Fishing boat, flying the Greek flag

Notes: generic versions of the sheetlets with printed stamp designs as above were sold philatelically at €13.00 each

033



034



029 **400th anniversary of the Death of El Greco (Domenikos Theotokopoulos), 1541-1641**, two values in a miniature sheet

Issue date: September 10, 2014; Design:

Myrsini Vardopoulou; Printer: Joh. Enschedé, Netherlands, offset; Perforations: 13.25 x 13.25

Miniature sheet – contains

€1.00 – The Deposition of Christ (detail of onlookers)

€1.50 – The Deposition of Christ (detail of Body of Christ)

Notes: the work also known as Burial of Christ, was painted in 1614, and is in the National Gallery of Greece

039



030 **Greek Writers and Poets of the Twentieth Century**, four values

Issue date: October 23, 2014; Designs: portraits and extracts from books; Printer: Joh. Enschedé, Netherlands, offset; Perforations: 13.25 x 13.25

€0.10 – Kostas Varnalis, 1884-1974, poet (born in Eastern Roumela, Ottoman Empire)

€0.40 – Dido Sotiriou, 1909-2004, Greek novelist, journalist, and playwright (born in Turkey)

€2.00 – Antonis Samarakis, 1919-2003, novelist, traveller, worker for UNICEF

€2.10 – Stratis Tsirkas, 1911-1980, Egyptian writer in Greek, relocated to Greece in 1963

040



041



043

ISLE of MAN

(previously listed in December 2015 issue)

031 **75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain**, six values in a sheetlet of twelve stamps and eight labels

Issue date: July 17, 2015; Design: kCreative, after illustrations by Keith Woodcock, or wartime photographs (labels); Printer: BDT, offset; Perforations: 13.25 x 13.25

Sheetlet, contains two copies of each of

70p – Messerschmitt BF110 bomber and Hawker Hurricane

70p – Heinkel III bomber and Spitfire

70p – Blenheim and Junkers 88

70p – Spitfire and Messerschmitt BF109

70p – Messerschmitt BF109 and Defiant

70p – Junkers JU87 and Hurricane

Sheetlet border depicts aircraft, pilot, flight crew, St Paul's Cathedral

Labels depict pilot with dog; flight crew relaxing on airfield grass; observers; pilots with badge; air crew playing draughts; parked aircraft; aerial view; Fighter Command control room

032 **150th anniversary of the Isle of Man's first Companies Act, 1865**, six values

Issue date: September 27, 2015; Design: EJC Design (Emma Cooke); Printer: BDT, offset; Perforations: 13.1 x 13.1

Designs note the history and primary activities of the oldest continually trading incorporated companies on the island

44p Isle of Man Bank Limited: Bank note, seal, building, certificate of incorporation, plastic card, electronic access (mobile phone screen)

77p The Isle of Man Steam Packet Company Limited: shipping posters, ships, crew posing with lifebelt, certificate of incorporation, harbour

93p The Finch Hill Pavilion and Bowling Club Limited: bowl and jack on green, club members

(group depiction), early bowling green scene

113p Hill and Brearley Limited (brewers): wax seal, certificate of incorporation, brewery (early scene), public houses

154p Farmers Combine Limited: truck in front of Ramsey premises, stock in warehouse, certificate of incorporation, cattle food advertising sign, seed packets

165p Peel Golf Club Limited: ball on tee, ancient and modern golfers (photographs), badge, certificate of incorporation

KIRIBATI

(previously listed in May 2015 issue)

033 **Kiribati participation in the XX Commonwealth Games, Glasgow**, two values in a miniature sheet

Issue date: September 8, 2014; Design: Derek

Miller; Printer: Southern Colour Print, NZ; Perforations: 14.25 x 13.75

Miniature sheet: \$2.50 Kiribati team and officials marching in the parade of athletes; \$2.50 Black Scottie dog (Games mascot) leading the Kiribati team, wearing 'KIRIBATI' jacket

034 **David Katoatau of Kiribati, Commonwealth Games 2014 Weightlifting Gold Medallist**, two values

Issue date: September 8, 2014; Design: Derek Miller; Printer: Southern Colour Print, NZ; Perforations: 13.75 x 14.25

25c Flag of Kiribati, and David Katoatau competing in men's 105kg category

75c Flag of Kiribati and David Katoatau holding his gold medal

035 **Butterflies of Kiribati**, two values in a miniature sheet

Issue date: May 27, 2015; Design: Donna McKenna; Printer: Southern Colour Print, NZ; Perforations: 13.75 x 14.25.

Miniature sheet – contains

\$2.00 Meadow Argus, *Junonia villida*

\$3.00 Blue Moon, *Hypolimnys bolina*

Border depicts a monarch, *Danaus plexippus*, and is free-form cut to shape around this butterfly

036 **Singapore 2015 World Stamp Exhibition**, four values (overprints)

Issue date: July 17, 2015; Design: SINGAPORE 2015 overprinted on previously issued Birds stamps, two values also surcharged; Printer: not reported; Perforations: 13.6 x 13.6

40c on 90c Red Phalarope,

Phalaropus fulicarius

60c on \$5 Bonin Petrel, *Pterodroma hypoleuca*

\$1 – Pink-footed Shearwater, *Puffinus creatopus*

\$2 – Ring-billed Gull, *Larus delawarensis*

LATVIA

(previously listed in June 2015 issue)

Correction. Release dates for issues listed in April and June 2015 magazines are corrected to: Baltic Chain, August 23, 2014; Ainazu Lighthouse, September 12, 2014; Centenary of Republic, November 8, 2014; Pride of Latvia Stamp Design Competition, December 4, 2014

037 **Latvian Presidency of the European Union, January to June 2015**, one value

Issue date: January 6, 2015; Design: Girts Griva; Printer: Baltijas Banknote, offset; Perforations: 13.75 x 14

€0.64 – Logo of the Presidency

038 Definitives. Garden Flowers, five values

Issue date: January 9, 2015; Design: Girts Griva; Printer: Baltijas Banknote, offset; Perforations: 14 x 14. Imprint date '2015'
 €0.10 – Crocuses, *Galanthus nivalis*
 €0.25 – Dahlias (three forms)
 €0.70 – Lilies
 €0.78 – Calendula or Pot Marigold, *Calendula officinalis*
 €2.13 – Pansies, *Lathyrus odoratus*

039 Grüne Woche (Green Week) Exhibition, Berlin, one value

Issue date: January 15, 2015; Design: Arta Ozola-Jaunaraja; Printer: Baltijas Banknote, offset; Perforations: 13.2 x 13.2
 €0.50 Cow (in grey-blue) in grassland, landscape

Notes: an annual Exhibition for the farming and food industries. Printed in sheetlet of ten with border illustration of cattle and sheep

040 Definitives. Coats of Arms, three values

Issue date: January 30, 2015; Design: Girts Griva; Printer: Baltijas Banknote; Perforations: 14 x 14
 €1.00 – Coat of Arms of Riga
 €2.00 – National Coat of Arms (Latvia)
 €5.00 – National Coat of Arms (Latvia).

Notes: the €2.00 value has a silver frame, and the €5.00 value a gold frame

041 700th anniversary of the town of Jelgava, one value

Issue date: February 5, 2015; Design: Girts Griva; Printer: Baltijas Banknote; Perforations: 13.3 x 13.5
 €1.71 Monuments including bridge, and tower of the Holy Trinity Church (which was destroyed in Second World War), and logo of Jelgava City Festival

042 170th anniversary of the Natural History Museum, one value

Issue date: February 20, 2015; Design: Girts Griva; Printer: Baltijas Banknote; Perforations: 13.2 x 13.3
 €0.71 – Fossilised fish of the Placoderm genus, *Asterolepis ornata*, and reconstruction (artwork) of the appearance of the fish, one of the first fish which had jaws and armour

043 Flowers. Sunflowers, one value

Issue date: March 6, 2015; Design: painting by Lilija Dinere; Printer: Baltijas Banknote, offset; Perforations: 13.2 x 13.3
 Sheetlet:
 €0.50 x four copies – Sunflower, *Helianthus annuus*

Notes: the lower row of two stamps are set inverted, creating vertically tête-bêche pairs

044 Europa 2015. Old Toys, two values

Issue date: April 10, 2015; Design: Arta Ozola-Jaunaraja; Printer: Baltijas Banknote, offset; Perforations: 13.75 x 13.75
 Sheet stamps: format height 27½mm x width 33mm, printed in sheetlets of ten stamps, with the lower row of five set inverted, creating vertically tête-bêche pairs

€0.78 Three dolls and fireplace with tea service
 €1.71 Teddy bears and baby dolls in a storeroom, with trunk and clock
 Stamp Booklet (€3.12) – contains Pane of €0.78 x four copies – three dolls, and fireplace with tea service
 Booklet cover depicts bird in a tree, and notes Essen 2015 Stamp Bourse

Notes: stamps in the booklet pane are larger format (height 37mm, width 33mm) and each have one imperf edge, either at top or at base

045 Bicentenary of the Kurzeme (Courland) Literary and Arts Society, one value

Issue date: April 21, 2015; Design: Elita Viliama; Printer: Baltijas Banknote, offset; Perforations: 13.25 x 13.25
 €0.85 – Building of the Academia Petrina in Jelgava, now the History and Art Museum, emblem (golden harp), manuscript (scroll) and student members

Notes: stamp is printed in a sheetlet of ten stamps which frame two central labels depicting nineteenth-century Academy activities

046 25th anniversary of the Restoration of Latvian Independence, one value

Issue date: April 20, 2015; Design: Ludis Danilans; Printer: Baltijas Banknote, offset; Perforations: 13.25 x 13
 €0.50 Statue of the 'Bear Slayer' at the base of the Freedom Monument, flag of Latvia, and Parliament building

047 International Day of Press Freedom, one value

Issue date: May 3, 2015; Design: Ludis Danilans; Printer: Baltijas Banknote, offset; Perforations: 13.25 x 13.5
 €0.57 – Pen with wings forming a 'dove', silhouette of Riga, UNESCO logo

048 Definitives. Garden Flowers, three values

Issue date: May 5, 2015; Design: Girts Griva; Printer: Baltijas Banknote, offset; Perforations: 14 x 14. Imprint date '2015'
 €0.01 – Daisies (cultivated types)
 €0.04 – Anemone hepatica
 €0.07 – 'Samtene'

Notes: these are reprintings with new imprint date incorporated in the design

049 150th anniversary of the Fire Service, one value

Issue date: May 15, 2015; Design: Ludis Danilans; Printer: Baltijas Banknote, offset; Perforations: 13.2 x 13.2
 €1.40 Firefighter and fire engine of early twentieth century, and modern fire tender with extendable ladder on top
Notes: the anniversary of the institution of organised fire-fighting teams in various Latvian cities

050 Birds of Latvia, two values

Issue date: June 25, 2015; Design: Girts Griva; Printer: Baltijas Banknote, offset; Perforations: 13.75 x 13.75
 €0.75 – Golden Oriole, *Oriolus oriolus*
 €1.42 – Golden Plover, *Pluvialis apricaria*

PORTUGAL

(previously listed in July 2015 issue)

051 Figures of Portuguese History and Culture (birth anniversaries), six values

Issue date: March 24, 2014; Design: B2 Design (portraits); Printer: State Mint, offset; Perforations: 11.75 x 12 with cross cut-outs on vertical sides
 €0.40 – Florbela Espanca, 1894-1930, poetess, writer and translator
 €0.50 – Maria Keil, 1914-2012, artist
 €0.60 – Joaquim Namorado, 1914-1966, artist
 €0.70 – João Hogan, 1914-1988, graphic designer and artist
 €0.80 – António Dacosta, 1914-1990, painter and poet
 €1.00 – José Sebastião e Silva, 1914-1972, mathematician

052 40th anniversary of the start of the 25 April Revolution against Fascism in Portugal, two values and a miniature sheet

Issue date: April 7, 2014; Design: B2 Design, after press photographs; Printer: State Mint, offset; Perforations: 12.1 x 11.8 with cross cut-outs on horizontal sides
 (A) non-denominated stamps from sheets of fifty (€0.80) – The 7th Cavalry Regiment 'surrenders to the people' in Praça do Comércio (the former Palace





054



055



056



064

Square), Lisbon
(€0.80) – 'Welcome to the new regime':
crowds surrounding Army personnel
(B) miniature sheet
€3.00 – Flags of Portugal, Greece and Spain
(all nations which moved away from
dictatorships in the 1970s)
Border depicts crowds and soldiers

053 'Grand's Prix of Portugal' Architecture

Awards, three non-denominated values
Issue date: April 7, 2014; Design: Whitestudio;
Printer: State Mint, offset; Perforations: 12.1 x
11.8 with cross cut-outs on vertical sides
(€0.80) – Júlio Pomar Museum, Lisbon
and portrait of Álvaro Siza Vieira
(b.1933), architect
(€0.80) – The Green Corridor, Lisbon (planned
eco-architecture), and portrait of
Gonçalo Ribeiro Teles
(b.1922), architect
(€0.80) – Paula Rego Museum in Cascais, and
portrait of Eduardo Souto de Moura
(b.1952), architect

054 500th anniversary of the Birth of Andreas Versalius, Flemish anatomist and surgeon

five values in a miniature sheet
Issue date: April 21, 2014; Design: Kriss Maes,
from plates in copy of *De Humani Corporis
Fabrica* (The Human Body) by Versalius held
by University of Coimbra; Engraving: Guillaume
Broux; Printer: Bpost Stamps, Belgium, recess
and gravure; Perforations: 11.5 x 11.5
Miniature sheet – contains
€0.40 – Male torso, head and arms
€0.60 – Human skeleton
€0.70 – Anatomical drawing
€0.80 – Male body showing muscles
€1.00 – Body showing arteries

*Notes: a large format miniature sheet, height
195mm x width 140mm. Joint issue
with Belgium.
Versalius, 1514-1564, was physician to
Emperor Charles V, and to King Philip II of Spain
and Spanish Netherlands*

055 500th anniversary of the Birth of Bishop Bartolomeu dos Mártires ('Blessed Bartholomew')

one value and
a miniature sheet
Issue date: April 25, 2014; Design: Atelier B2;
Printer: State Mint, offset; Perforations: 11.75 x
12 with cross cut-outs on horizontal sides
€0.70 – Mártires, 1514-1590,
as the Bishop of Braga
Miniature sheet – €3.00 Mártires painted by
António André (17th century)
Border depicts religious leaders assembled at
the Council of Trent (northern Italy), a political

/ religious summit where Mártires supplied
theological input

056 Commemorating Eusébio da Silva

Ferreira, Footballer, two non-denominated
values and a miniature sheet
Issue date: May 2, 2014; Design: Design & etc
(Helder Soares) from press photographs; Printer:
Cartor, offset; Perforations: 11.8 x 12.1, with
cross cut-outs on horizontal sides
N 20g (€0.36) – Eusébio running with ball
E 70g (€0.70) – Eusébio trapping ball
Miniature sheet €2.50 – Eusébio celebrating
after scoring for Portugal

*Notes: Eusébio, one of the most revered
Portuguese footballers of all time, who played in
the 1966 World Cup, was born and grew up in
the Portuguese colony of Mozambique*

057 'Agir', 'Reagir', 'Decidir' (Act, React, Decide): Elections 2014 to the European Parliament

vending machine labels
(Post and Go)

Issue date: May 5, 2014; Printing: offset, value
and coding added themographically by machine
in grey

Self-adhesive labels, format height 30mm x
width 55mm, in three basic designs

- † – AGIR – hand depositing ballot paper
in to box
- † – REAGIR – circle of stars and plan of
European Assembly seating
- † – DECIDIR – circle of stars and
European Parliament building

*Notes: multiple choices of denomination were
available, for both standard postage and for
Correio Azul*

058 'Eight Centuries of the Portuguese

Language', one value and a miniature sheet
Issue date: May 5, 2014; Design: AF Atelier;
Printer: State Mint, offset; Perforations: 11.7 x
11.9, with cross cut-outs on vertical sides, or
horizontal sides (on miniature sheet)
€0.80 – Hand holding a stylus, and globe
with frieze of the flags of the world's
Portuguese speaking nations
and territories

Miniature sheet €2.50 – Nib of pen drawing a
line in Portuguese colours (red and green)
Border depicts the Last Will and Testament of
King Afonso II, dated June 27, 1214, which
is generally regarded as the first document in
modern Portuguese

059 Europa 2014. National Musical

Instruments, one value, and two values in a
miniature sheet
Issue date: May 5, 2014; Design: Folk Design;
Printer: Cartor, offset; Perforations: 11.7 x 11.9,

with cross cut-outs on horizontal sides.
Non-denominated

(A) stamp printed in sheets of ten
E 20g (€0.70) Player of gaita da foles
(traditional Portuguese
bagpipe from the Miranda
plateau region)
(B) Miniature sheet (two values se-tenant),
contains
E 20g (€0.70) Player of gaita da foles
(traditional Portuguese bagpipe)
as sheet stamp
E 20g (€0.70) Gaita de foles in close up
Border depicts musicians

060 Definitives. Extreme and Action

Sports, three self-adhesive values
Issue date: May 27, 2014; Design: Atelier
Whitestudio, after João Machado; Printer:
Cartor, offset; Perforations: 11.4 x 11.4.
Non-denominated self-adhesive
booklet stamps:
N 20g (0.36€) – Surfing
A 20g (0.50€) – Mountain-biking / BMX
E 20g (0.70€) – Skateboarding
*Notes: the designs of N20g and E20g are as
the gummed stamps released February 10,
2014, except in smaller format (height 25mm
x width 30mm)
The A20g stamp is a new design, with
inscriptions and bicycle redrawn (compared to
Feb 10 2014 gummed issue), and a 'Correio
Azul' flash added
Singles (as above) from the booklets were
distributed philatelically*

061 150th anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Portugal and Mexico

two values
Issue date: June 6, 2014; Design: Design &
etc (Helder Soares); Printer: Cartor, offset;
Perforations: 12 x 11.6 with cross cut-outs on
vertical sides
€0.42 – Flags of Portugal and of Mexico
€0.80 – Flags of Portugal and Mexico in breeze

062 500th anniversary of the Diocese of Funchal, Madeira

four values and two
miniature sheets
Issue date: June 12, 2014; Design: Elizabete
Fonseca, Design & etc; Printer: Cartor, offset;
Perforations: 11.75 x 12 with cross cut-outs
on horizontal sides.
€0.42 – Sixteenth-century jewelled
processional cross from
Funchal Diocese
€0.50 – Painting of the Apostle James, from
Funchal cathedral (patron saint)
€0.72 – Statuette of Virgin in gold dress
€0.80 – Pope John Paul II (photograph)

Miniature sheet €1.00 – Foundation

document for Funchal Diocese, Pro excellenti praesentia, by Pope Leo X, 1514

Miniature sheet €0.70 – West end and tower of Funchal Cathedral, constructed from 1508

Border depicts cathedral interior

Notes: although featuring Funchal these should be taken as metropolitan Portuguese stamps; they are inscribed Portugal/Correos (not Madeira). They were however included in the 2014 Year Booklet of Madeira stamps

063 FIFA World Football Cup Finals 2014, Brazil

two values and a miniature sheet
Issue date: June 16, 2014; Design: Elizabete Fonseca; Printer: State Mint, offset; Perforations: 11.9 x 11.7 with cross cut-outs on vertical
€0.42 – World Cup 2014 emblem (trophy) and Portuguese flag
€0.72 – World Cup 2014 mascot (cartoon) and Brazilian flag

SWITZERLAND

(previously listed in February 2016 issue)

064 125th anniversary of the Pilatus Cog Railway

one value
Issue date: May 8, 2014; Design: Susanne Perron; Printer: Bagel Security Print, Germany; Perforations: 12.8 x 13.9
100c – Railcar (of the 'Locher' system for traction) on 48% slope to Station Piplatus Kulm at 2132m

065 Special Olympics National Games, May 29 to June 1, 2014, in Bern

one value
Issue date: May 8, 2014; Design: Jenny Leibundgut; Printer: Cartor, France, offset; Perforations: 13.5 x 13.3
100c – Basketball players, including Florian Klausner

066 Cities of Switzerland

three self-adhesive values
Issue date: May 8, 2014; Designs: by students of Basel School of Design; Printer: Cartor, France, offset; Perforations: 13.3 x 13.5
100c – St Gallen: tree in planter pot, and the Abbey Cathedral. Design: Shana Messerli
100c – Luzern: people taking a 'selfie' with Chapel Bridge in background. Design: Jaira Payer
100c – Lugano: diver and powerboat on Lake Lugano, wrought iron gate of Parco Ciani, and view of Monte Brè. Design: Amaru Eslava

Notes: third issue in a series

067 Pro Patria 2014. Exhibits from Small Swiss Museums

four values and a stamp booklet
Issue date: May 8, 2014; Design: Vito Noto; Printer: Enschedé, Netherlands, offset; Perforations: 13.75 x 14.75
85 + 40c – Ortsmuseum, Binningen. Larval mask of a clown face, b Gido Wiederkehr, 1982
85 + 40c – Museo del Malcantone, Curio. 'Marseille' roof tile from the Malcantone kiln
100 + 50c – Museum Hôtel-Dieu, Porrentruy. The apprentice watch of Emile Jaillard, student at Porrentruy School of Watchmaking 1895-1899
100 + 50c – Willisau Musical Instrument Collection: a reconstructed medieval hurdy-gurdy
Stamp Booklet (sold at 14.50f): contains six copies of 85+40c larval mask and 100 + 50c apprentice watch

068 Clock Towers

two values
Issue date: May 21, 2014; Design: Kaspar Eigensatz; Printer: Enschedé, Netherlands, offset; Perforations: 13 x 13.4
100c – Zytglogge Tower in Bern (tower in profile, and clock face)
140c – Clock Tower of the Kazansky Railway Station in Moscow

Notes: both stamps printed in sheetlets of eight with borders bearing simplified city coats of arms. Joint issue with Russia

069 The Lindau Messenger (Lindauer Bote), postal service of 18th-19th centuries

one value
Issue date: September 4, 2014; Design: Beat Leuenberger and Jürg Glauser; Printer: Cartor, France, offset; Perforations: 12 x 12
140c – Post carriage hauled by five horses, map of route from Lindau (on Lake of Konstanz to Milan (shown with north at top)

Notes: joint issue with Liechtenstein and Austria

070 Fauna of the Swiss National Park

four values
Issue date: September 4, 2014; Design: Naomi Niewald (paintings); Printer: Cartor, France, offset; Perforations: 13.25 x 13.5
85c – Mouse-weasel, *Mustela nivalis*
100c – Alpine Marmot, *Marmota marmota*
140c – Nutcracker, *Nucifraga caryocatactes*
190c – Red Deer, *Cervus elaphus*

071 Swiss Skills

one value
Issue date: September 4, 2014; Design: Urs Lieber; Printer: Giesecke & Devrient Leipzig, Germany, offset; Perforations: 13.5 x 13.5
100c – Tools for house painting and plastering

072 Garfield (cartoon character)

two self-adhesive values
Issue date: September 4, 2014; Design: Jim Davis (creator of Garfield); Printer: Enschedé, Netherlands, offset; Perforations: 12 x 12
100c – Garfield the Cat and Ollie the Dog sharing the making of a (messy) fondue
100c – Garfield in mountains, eating a Swiss chocolate bar

The above stamps were issued in a flat pane of two
Self-adhesive booklet (10.00f): contains 100c x five copies Garfield and Ollie making a fondue
100c x five copies Garfield in mountains eating chocolate

073 'The Record'

one value in a miniature sheet
Issue date: September 4, 2014; Design: Thomas Rathgeb; Printer: Enschedé, Netherlands, offset with raised special coating of lacquer; Perforations: none
Miniature sheet 500c – Record on a record player deck
Notes: stamp is circular, within a freeform miniature sheet; Swiss Post states when the stamp is peeled from backing and placed on a real record player it will deliver a brass band rendition of the Swiss National Anthem

TUNISIA

(previously listed in February 2016 issue)

074 Tunisian Lighthouses

four values
Issue date: September 20, 2013; Design: after photographs; Printer: Post Printer, Tunis; Perforations: 12.6 x 12.8
250m – Lighthouse on Metline Island in Gulf of Bizerte (Îles de Cani)
600m – Lighthouse off Jalta Island in the Galite archipelago, northern Tunisia
700m – Lighthouse of Borj Jlij, Djerba island
1000m – Lighthouse, built within a fortress, at Borj Khadija, Chebba

075 Parental Love

one value
Issue date: October 18, 2013; Design: Sihem Chaabene; Printer: Post Printer, Tunis; Perforations: 12.9 x 13.1
250m – Protective hand and heart shape, elderly couple accompanying young parents with children



065



066



068



069



073

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RN4 GREAT BRITAIN – HMS Victory Cover, issued for the 250th anniv. of the launching of Nelson's Flagship, HMS Victory. "The pride of the British Navy". The oldest commissioned warship in the world. Bearing a Royal Mail ensign stamp and cancelled with a Royal Mail illustration ship pmk. dated 7/5/15 – only 100 covers were issued..Price £8.75

Malay. 2 SINGAPORE – A fantastic collection of Singapore stamps. Mainly in fine used condition and containing definitives and commemoratives of Singapore. Hundreds of different stamps Price £16.25

E2R GP1. GREAT BRITAIN – Rare Machin gutter pair cover. One of the most sought after Machin definitive covers. The Royal Mail illustrated cover bears the scarce blue 2nd class definitive Machin gutter pair with gold coronation anniv. Royal Mail crown design in Gutter Pair. The cover is postmarked with the official London E2R Coronation anniv. Pmk. Dated 1/11/13. This is of postal history importance as the Machin Coronation Gutter Pair is scarce as mint and rare used on cover Price £27.

Parl 92 GREAT BRITAIN – Scarce Parliamentary Cover – This scarce cover issued for the 750th Anniv. of Simon De Montfort's Parliament. Superbly illustrated and bearing the Royal Mail De Montfort commemorative stamp pmkd. with Royal Mail 2/6/15 official Royal Mail illustrated postmark. Only 60 of this cover are known to exist..... Price £9.25

Alb. 7 ALBANIA – A lovely collection of Albanian stamps, including scarcer older stamps issued for King Zog, unmounted mint. Unusual items noted include 1952 stamps issued by the Albanian Govt. in exile. Also better overprinted stamps. Containing over 100 stamps with blocks and singles mint and used Price £15.

HRH 72. Princes Diana – A rare Great Britain cover issued for the interment of Diana Princess of Wales. The illustrated cover has been postmarked twice by the Royal Mail. Once on the actual interment day 6/9/97 and then again on the issue date of the Diana Memorial British stamp issue on 3/2/98. These covers now mostly in collectors hands are rare and seldom offered for sale..... Price £17

GB10. First Flight Cover – Elusive aviation cover flown on the Boeing 747 Jumbo jet on its maiden flight from New York to London on 22/1/1970. The superb Boeing illustrated cover bears a GPO aircraft stamp and GPO postmark in combination with "Boeing 747" flight cachet in red Price £8.

EP96. EUROPEAN PRINCIPALITIES – A gorgeous collection of mainly unmounted mint stamps of the small European principalities includes: Monaco, Liechtenstein, San Marino and Andorra. Some used but mostly Unmounted Mint. Over 100 stamps..... Price £19

CAM 25. DAVID CAMERON. – A much sought after 2015 General Election cover. The cover bears the QEII "Pound note stamp" with illustrated Pmk. Dated 7/5/15 for the shock election results giving the Conservatives an outright majority. The cover depicts the Prime Minister David Cameron. Less than 65 covers exist world wide making this one of the scarcest political covers..... Price £18.50

IN 923. INDONESIA – Super collection of this popular S.E. Asian country dating back to 1945 to more modern with only unmounted mint in blocks & singles. The collection contains hundreds of mint Indonesia stamps Price £18.

GB11. WINSTON CHURCHILL – A superb cover commemorating the 75th Anniversary of Sir Winston Churchill becoming prime minister. The cover depicts the great man and his quote: "All my past life has been but a preparation for this hour and this trial". The cover bears the Winston Churchill Royal Mail commemorative stamp issue and illustrated Royal Mail Churchill postmark (from a limited issue of only 100 covers)..... Price £14.

POW 9. COLDITZ – Official Red Cross commemorative Colditz prison cover. The cover was flown from Colditz to the Channel Islands, the cover depicts the infamous prison with German postage stamp and Colditz postmark..... Price £10.

MS 493. WORLD WIDE MINIATURE SHEETS COLLECTION – A big collection of well over one hundred different miniature sheets, countries noted include: Russia, Eq. Guinea, St. Thomas and Prince Islands, Guyana, Cambodia, Gt. Britain, Trucial States, Tanzania, Panama, U.S.A., Korea, Mexico, Belize, Israel, Afghanistan, Philippines, Pakistan & Cuba. A massive lot, with mint and used miniature sheets Price £17.25

SNP 12 SCOTLAND – The Special Commemorative cover for the Scottish National Parties Landslide Victory in Scotland; winning virtually 95% of seats. The cover depicts Nicola Sturgeon (SNP Party Leader) and bears Royal Mail Heraldic Lion stamp and official Edinburgh Postmark dated 7/5/15. The cover is sought after in Scotland and elsewhere as only 50 were produced at the time. Price £13.75

IOM 8. ISLE OF MAN – Queen Victoria Illustrated commemorative cover for the 175th Anniv. of the world's first stamp. The impressive cover bears a block of six penny black stamps and one two penny blue stamp tied to the cover with 6th May IOM Anniv. pmks. Only 100 of this cover were postmarked by the IOM Post Office..... Price £9.25

E481. ETHIOPIA – A valuable collection of Ethiopian stamps dating back to circa 1898 Abyssinian issues with many older stamps of the 1930's to 1950's including scarcer early Air Mail overprints and ranges through to more recent issues. Approx. 100 different Ethiopian stamps Price £19.50

MAR 7. PRINCESS MARGARET MOURNING COVER – This scarce Royal Cover is hardly ever offered for sale. Illustrated with a classic portrait of Princess Margaret 1930-2002 and postmarked exceptionally with Royal Mail Brighton internal enquiry office postmark dated 9/2/2002. The cover is of special postal history interest due to the use of the rare postmark..... Price £21

PRC 10. CHINA – A glorious collection of stamps of China. Mostly People's Republic of China, with interesting group of Hong Kong Stamps; also China Stamp Booklets, Mint Complete sheet noted some odd Macau, Several China Miniature Sheets and China First Day Covers. Noted better overprinted stamps, East China 1949 Mao Tse Tung & General Zhu. A highly recommended lot with hundreds of China stamps not counting complete China stamp booklets, miniature sheets and FDC's Price £37

LUS 3. RMS LUSITANIA – Special commemorative cover for the centenary of the sinking of the Lusitania. Only 100 covers in existence. Superbly illustrated for the tragic event that brought America into World War I. The cover bears a Royal Mail Navy Ensign Stamp with the 7th May 2015 Lusitania illustrated Royal Mail Liverpool pmk..... Price £8.75

JK 106. HARRY POTTER – A fantastic collection of different Harry Potter stamps from various countries. Includes a scarce Isle of Man Prisoner of Azkaban cover with I.O.M. Harry Potter stamp in combination with official Royal Mail Harry Potter stamp, postmarked with illustrated first day issue, Hogwarts postmark. The collection also includes unmounted mint Royal Mail Harry Potter stamps and miniature sheets from various countries, includes catalogued and scarcer unlisted issues the whole collection Price £19.75

SA4 NELSON MANDELA – A historic and scarce mourning cover for Nelson Mandela. 'His was a spirit born free, today his spirit is soaring through the heavens. He is now forever free' – Muhammad Ali 5/12/13. The cover bears a South Africa Mandela stamp with cachet 'In Memoriam 1918-2013' also Royal Mail gold definitive postmarked Mount Pleasant 5/12/13. Only 50 covers known to exist..... Price £14.

GB85 GREAT BRITAIN – An important error on the 1966 Battle of Hastings 6d. value. The wrong colour gold leaf was used in error on the Queens Head. Error – yellow gold instead of normal bronze gold. We can offer the unmounted mint error plus normal stamp for comparison Price £7.50

LA39K BRITISH ISLES – A phenomenal & valuable collection of British Local Island's stamps. Only unmounted mint, including Lundy Island, Davaar Island, Cairn Iar, Isle of Easdale, Bernera Island, Staffa, Stroma, Isle of Pabay, Bardsey, Herm, Calf of Man, Hildasay – Shetland Islands, Jethou, Brechou, Alderney, St Kilda, St Marys, Calvey Island, Sanda Island, Gugh, St Martins. With blocks, multiples, singles & miniature sheets. This important & valuable collection with only unmounted mint stamps and many high E values. The nominal face value is well over £200 Price £47.25.

GB5 GB WINSTON CHURCHILL D-DAY COVER – A spectacular cover and valuable addition to any WWII Collection. The cover is inscribed 70th Anniv. Of D-Day 6th June 1944. Illustrated with Churchill Downing Street 1940's Photograph, and Churchill's Quote: "And what a plan! This vast operation is undoubtedly the most complicated and difficult that has ever occurred." The cover bears a combination of Royal Mail, Churchill and D-Day stamps. With official Royal Mail, British Forces 3173 Postal Services postmark, D-Day 6th June 2014. The cover also bears original King George VI GPO stamps, with horizontal cachet inscribed "D-Day The Longest Day" in black. The cover issue was restricted to 100 covers only Price £13.75

M27A CORONATION STREET. – A specialised and most unusual thematic collection of Coronation street stamps with COMPLETE UNM, MINT SETS. From various British local islands, including scarcer High Values and several £1.00 values. Personalities depicted on stamps include: Jack & Annie Walker, Stan & Hilda Ogden, Ken & Irma Barlow, Jack & Vera Duckworth, Martha Longhurst, Ena Sharples, Mike & Alma Baldwin, Kevin Webster, Raquel Wolstenholme, Ray Langton, Liz McDonald, Alf Roberts, Bet Gilroy, Curly Watts, Leonard Swindly, Elsie Tanner, Reg Holdworth + others Price £12.00

Z33E UNORTHODOX STAMPS – One of the most unusual collections we have ever seen assembled, with everything except normal stamps. Including triangular stamps, self adhesive 'free form', map shaped stamps, gold foil round (circular) stamps, diamond shapes, '3 dimensional' and others. Hundreds of different mint and used unorthodox stamps Price £13.

LIB 92. LIBYA – War in Libya, Liberation Cover. An unusual cover inscribed Official Liberation Day with Iconic Illustration. The cover has Machin Royal Mail stamps and official Royal Mail British Jubilee postmark dated, 23 Oct 2011 (Libya Liberation Day). The cover also bears a Libya Col. Gaddafi stamp tied to cover with cachet inscribed Oct 2011 Libya. An unusual and important cover..... Price £14.50

R88A NAZI GERMAN – Occupation of World War II various Croatia Bohemia and Moravia. Occupation of Poland General government (Theresienstadt also Lodz Ghetto these may not be genuine) plus various other Germany war period Hitler issues. Mainly genuine unmounted mint/used..... Price £10.

HRH7 RARE ROYAL COVER – Extremely rare Royal Cover for HRH Prince George. This superbly illustrated, Royal Baby, Official first day cover, bears a gutter pair originally printed for Princess Diana's 21st birthday, which was overprinted for the birth of her son Prince William dated 19/07/1982, the cover was re-posted with Royal Mail stamps of three generations: Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Charles & Prince William. Officially postmarked by the Royal Mail for Prince George's christening on 23/10/13 at St James' Palace London. The cover has been signed by the stamp designer – only 40 of this rare cover are understood to exist and are destined to be vital to any future Prince William and Prince George stamp collections Price £19.75.

LOT K2 GREAT BRITAIN UNMOUNTED MINT COMMEMORATIVES & DEFINITIVES & DEFINITIVES UNSORTED ACCUMULATION. Items noted include Traffic Light Gutter Pair Missing Phosphor Error foil strips. Well over 500 stamps only unmounted mint Price £15

MM28 MARILYN MONROE – A gorgeous collection of Marilyn Monroe stamps. Few other actresses embodies the term 'Hollywood Movie Star' as much as the legendary and iconic screen goddess, Marilyn Monroe. This collection contains many different unmounted mint and used Marilyn Monroe stamps. Including several elusive stamps..... Price £11

JB 773 JAMES BOND – An outstanding collection of James Bond Stamps. Includes official James Bond combination cover bearing Ian Fleming's iconic James Bond book issue, with first day of issue 8/1/2008 Royal Mail postmark. The cover was reposted on 1/5/2012 (four years later) with Royal Mail "British Hero James Bond 50th Anniv Postmark" The James Bond Collection continues with many Unmounted Mint James Bond Commemorative Stamps and Miniature Sheets: Including, scarcer unlisted issues from various countries..... Price £26

PA 22 BAHAWALPUR, PAKISTAN & BANGLADESH. – A collection with hundreds of different Bangladesh also Pakistan, with mint and used stamps up to modern, but noted King George VI Bahawalpur unmounted mint dating back to 1948. A fine collection of hundreds of different stamps Price £12.25

STR 58 GREAT BRITAIN SPECIALISED 1971 POSTAL STRIKE COLLECTION – Dating back to the short period in British Postal History when the Post Office granted licenses to private delivery companies to deliver mail in the U.K. This important GB postal history collection comprising of postal strike stamps in singles & blocks also has scarcer multiples and "Tete-beche" stamps. Used and unused with many unmounted mint (FDC noted). Well over one hundred stamps Price £15

SP27X SPACE – Space, the final frontier. A small but impressive collection of outer space and space exploration camps. Including original 1969 moon landing cover and People's Republic of China space covers. Over 100+ mint and used stamps and miniature sheets. Noted mint Royal Mail issues for Planetary Nebula in Norma & Aquila, Seyfert 2 Galaxy in Circinus, Pegasus Galaxy. Also Russia mint issue for Yuri Gagarin, first man in space. A lovely lot. Price £14.50.

GB.51 - GREAT BRITAIN – Scarce Festival of Britain Commem. Cover. Bearing the Abram Games stamp designer official Royal Mail Commem. Stamp cancelled with iconic Festival of Britain 25/3/14 Postmark. The cover also bears the complete King George VI 1951 Festival stamps with black cachet "G.P.O. 1951 Festival of Britain Official Stamp Issue" The edition was limited to only 100 of these important covers..... Price £11.25



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The Royal Mint introduces UK's first £50 coin

Two iconic British figures – Queen Elizabeth II and Britannia – have been paired on the first ever UK £50 for £50 face value coin.

The Royal Mint has announced the release of the £50 coin, which features the fifth portrait from the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, created by Royal Mint engraver Jody Clark. The obverse carries an engraving of Britannia, a popular representation of the United Kingdom over the years; on this version Britannia stands in front of a globe with a British lion by her side.

Jody Clark's Britannia design is a contemporary take on this classic symbol of Britain, yet also represents tradition.

According to The Royal Mint, Jody looked to British heraldry and treasures such as the Una and the Lion coin for inspiration, reuniting Britannia with the British lion, a pairing also seen on plaques commemorating the soldiers of the First World War.



Director of Commemorative Coin, Anne Jessopp, said: 'It seems apt that these two familiar British figures feature together on the UK's first face value £50 coin in the year that The Queen became Britain's Longest Reigning Monarch, and Britannia returned to the circulating coinage.'

To purchase the coin, visit The Royal Mint website: www.royalmint.com

Coin details

Denomination: £50
Metal: 999AG
Weight: 31.00g
Diameter: 34.00mm
Designer: Jody Clark
Quality: Brilliant Uncirculated

TALKING TOKENS

Gaming counters

Card games were popular at least as far back as Roman times, though never more so than in Georgian England where gaming for high stakes reached addictive proportions during the reign of George III.

The classic villain in a popular novel of the day thought nothing of throwing down a handful of guineas on the strength of a pair of twos, then raging angrily when his next card turned out to be something other than the confidently expected third deuce. Dramatic stuff; but how many paperback writers these days, rattling off a historical bodice ripper for Mills and Boon, know that Georgian villains never threw down handfuls of guineas? Novel readers of the 1780s would most certainly have possessed sufficient social nous to be aware that when the author wrote, 'He tossed down twenty guineas with a flourish' she/he meant that twenty brass imitation guineas had rattled on the tabletop.

Gold was far too soft to stand throwing about. The player would, of course, have collected his/her winnings in lovely golden guineas at the end



of the evening. But all would have turned up with imitations for use during the game.

In early Georgian times the counters would have looked impressively like real guineas; perhaps a little darker, and often with the maker's initials incorporated within the legend – both precautions against the charge of counterfeiting, a hanging offence in those days. After 1817 and the introduction of sovereigns, card counters retained their guinea-like appearance, often with the legend altered to 'IN MEMORY OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS'.

In Victoria's reign (in some places probably a few decades earlier) hard gambling fell out of fashion. The spade guinea type of gaming

token seems to have continued in production, to judge from the huge quantities that have survived. Perhaps they were used as playing pieces in other games; or as imitation money in children's games – it's likely that large numbers remain undiscovered on holiday beaches where they have been used in the recent past as children's pirate money prizes. Victorian drawing-rooms echoed the genteel voices of pairs of whist players scoring points and taking tricks. They used halfpenny or farthing-sized brass or silver-plated markers bearing portraits of players rather than of monarchs; and often inscribed with phrases such as 'Keep Your Temper' or 'Silence!'

British Virgin Islands celebrate Rio 2016 Olympics with coins



Pobjoy Mint has announced the release of four new coins on behalf of the British Virgin Islands, to celebrate the 2016 Olympic Games, to be held in Rio this summer.

The Games of the XXXI Olympiad will take place in Brazil from 5 to 21 August, 2016, when 10,5000 athletes from 205 countries will compete in 28 different sports.

The first design features golf, which is returning to the Games after 112 years. The image shown is that of a male golfer with a torch in the foreground.

The second coin features Rugby Sevens, returning after a 92 year absence, with the coin showing a diving player with a Macaw (representing Rio de Janeiro) in the background.

The third design represents the Triathlon which appears for the fifth time in 2016. The coin features a swimmer transforming into a cyclist who in turn transforms into a runner, illustrating the three disciplines. A map of Brazil can be seen in the background.

The final design shows a female beach volleyball player diving for the ball with a lady in full Rio Carnival costume in the background. Beach Volleyball was first contested at the Games in 1996.

Each design features two ribbons, one of which features the Brazilian flag and the other the Union Jack. The obverse of each coin has an effigy of Queen Elizabeth II created specially for Pobjoy Mint. The coins are available in Uncirculated Cupro Nickel and Proof Sterling Silver.

Coin details

Issue date: 12 January 2016

Diameter: 38.60mm

Weight: 28.28g

For more information, visit the Pobjoy Mint website: www.pobjoy.com

...and produce coloured coin for the Lemon Shark



A new Yellow Titanium coin featuring the Lemon Shark has been issued by Pobjoy Mint on behalf of the British Virgin Islands.

The coin, which is available in Yellow Titanium, Silver and Cupro Nickel, continues the British Virgin Islands' coloured Titanium series and celebrates International Shark Week, seven days of programmes on sharks which are screened by Discovery Channel to 72 countries around the world.

The Lemon Shark is a large and powerful shark found in shallow, sub-

tropical waters. Despite its forbidding appearance, the Lemon Shark is not a big threat to humans, feeding mainly on fish and crustaceans under cover of darkness. Only 22 attacks on humans by Lemon Sharks have ever been reported, with no fatalities. This breed of shark has a magnetic sensor in its nose which allows it to attract prey and find a mate; this powerful sensor makes up for the shark's poor eyesight.

The coin features a Lemon Shark surrounded by a shoal of fish, whilst the obverse carries an effigy of Queen Elizabeth II.

Coin details

Issue date: 12 January 2016

Diameter: 38.60mm

(Cupro Nickel & Sterling Silver)

Weight: 28.20g (Cupro Nickel & Sterling Silver) 10g (Lemon Titanium)

For more information, visit the Pobjoy Mint website: www.pobjoy.com

Auction highlights



Spink's 'Banknotes, Bonds and Share Certificates and Coins of China and Hong Kong' sale saw a 1900 Chinese silver \$1 from the Kirin Province, sell for HK\$15,000. Featuring a dragon on the obverse with Manchurian characters left and right, and a flower basket at the centre on the reverse, along with the Chinese characters 'Geng Zi' left and right, the coin was in 'extremely fine to about uncirculated' condition.

SOLD FOR £1,353



Baldwin's recent New York sale saw a silver drachm of the Parthian Kingdom sell for \$13,500. The ancient coin, from the region we now know as Iran, featured the head of Arsakes I (247-211 BC), the leader of the Arsacid dynasty. The reverse featured an archer, seated left on a backless throne, holding a bow, with a monogram below. With 'delicate golden and bluish undertones' the coin was described as 'the finest to exist'.

SOLD FOR £9,518



A Greek tetradrachm, minted around 99 BC, was recently sold by Stack's Bowers and Ponterio. The coin featured a helmeted head of Athena facing right; with an owl, standing right on amphora with head facing, on the reverse. The tetradrachm was in circulation in Greece from around 510 to 38 BC, though the coins were often used in many other locations around the world.

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Coins on a budget

This month's bargain coin was purchased for £15 at an antique and collectors fair, writes Ed Archer. It is a George II sixpence struck in 1757. On the obverse is the laureate bust of King George II with the inscription 'GEORGIUS II DEI GRATIA', which translates as George II by grace of God.

However, it is the reverse of the coin which is really fascinating. First of all there is cross composed of the shields of England, France, Scotland and Ireland with the order of the garter in the centre. The claim to France is astonishing since Britain had lost its last French possession Dunkirk back in 1651! The inscription is even more intriguing, it reads: 'M.B.F .ET H.REX.FD.BR ET L.D. SRI. A.T. ET . E. 1757', an abbreviated form of the full Latin inscription: 'Magnae Britanniae, Franciae et Hiberniae Rex Fidei Defensor Brunsviciensis et Luneburgensis Dux. Sacri Romani Imperii Archi, Thesaurius et Elector'. The English translation is 'King of Great Britain, France and Ireland. Defender of the Faith. Duke of Brunswick and Luneburg. High Treasurer and Elector of the Holy Roman Empire'. The references to Brunswick, Luneburg and being Elector of the Holy Roman Empire shows the strong political power that the Hanoverian monarchs held. This coin shows just how important Britain was in Europe in 1757.

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Prussia

The lost kingdom and empire

Prussia has vanished from our modern atlases, but its coins turn up in dealers' trays across Europe. Collectors like them for their unusual denominations and their often striking portraits of Prussian rulers, writes Steve Webb

To discover traces of the territory that was Prussia nowadays you have to search within the borders of Germany, Poland, Russia, Lithuania, Denmark, Belgium, the Czech Republic, and Switzerland.

In January 1701 the Duchy of Prussia re-invented itself as the Kingdom of Prussia with Frederick I (1701-1713) of the Hohenzollern dynasty as its monarch. He possessed a powerful army to enforce his claim to a crown thanks to his father, Frederick Wilhelm of Brandenburg, who had made Brandenburg-Prussia Germany's strongest northern state with well-trained troops, and with Berlin as its fortified capital. Frederick I and his wife Sophia, sister to George III of England, transformed their court into a miniature Versailles where French tripped off guttural tongues, money flowed like Bavarian

Above: the Order of the Black Eagle created by Prussia's first king, Frederick I in 1701

Right: Frederick II 1753; one twenty-fourth of a reichsthaler. The letter A denotes the Berlin mint



Below, from left: Frederick II 1770 Frederick d'or; obverse and reverse (images courtesy of Heritage Auctions, New York); Frederick II 1786 silver reichsthaler with Latin rendering of 'FREDERICK KING OF PRUSSIA' on the obverse

beer and Berlin's architecture underwent a Baroque makeover.

Their coinage consisted of thalers and groschen, each with fractional denominations. The thaler derived its name from the German word 'tal' which translates as valley and refers to a mountain valley where a mine exploited a local silver deposit. Several such mines provided some German states with enough silver for their own needs and a little for export.

In Prussia's case silver was never abundant; but excellent arable land for cereal crops brought in a steadier income. The name of the other coin denomination, groschen, translates as fat, or heavy, penny. English groats have the same derivation.

Frederick I dissipated much of the Hohenzollern wealth on his extravagant lifestyle. One of his conceits was the creation of a new heraldic order – The Knights Of





The Black Eagle – whose motto was *suum cuique* (to each, his own). The black and white colours of the order became the Prussian national colours; while the motto and the black imperial eagle played their parts as powerful emblems of the Prussian state. They featured on many coins.

The second major contribution Frederick bestowed on the dynasty was his firstborn son and successor, Frederick Wilhelm I (1713-1740) who laid the foundations of Prussia's future greatness by concentrating on military efficiency and discipline. By the end of his reign Prussia could boast the best-trained army on the Continent; and coffers that bulged with war funds. His successor, Frederick II, had the men and equipment to ensure that Prussia would become a major European power.

A cultured and intelligent young man of 28 when he inherited the throne, Frederick II (1740-1786) enjoyed music and poetry. He built an opera house in Berlin and, continuing the policies of his father, ensured that Prussia had the finest educational and legal systems in Europe. Under Prussian law, equality and religious tolerance were guaranteed; policies that drew 300,000 political and religious refugees across Prussia's borders during his reign. As part of his currency reforms Frederick took Prussian mints out of semi-private ownership and simplified quality control methods by allotting a single identification letter to each mint. The letter appeared on every coin, and the same letters remained in use until modern Germany introduced the Euro in the early 21st century.

In 1740, as part of his attempts to increase trade with

neighbouring states he struck a gold coin, the Friedrich d'or, in three denominations, all of good weight and pegged in value to a new silver piece, the reichsthaler, and its fractional denominations, which had a metal content close to their face values, and which became regional as much as Prussian money. The high reputation of Frederick's coinage enabled it to survive a brief debasement during the Seven Years War (1756-1763), with fineness fully restored in 1764.

Successes in warfare as much as sound economic policies earned him the accolade Frederick the Great. During his reign he commanded troops in more than two dozen major battles, his most outstanding successes chalked up against Austria in 1745 with five victories over six months. Through warfare and diplomacy he gradually enlarged Prussia's borders to encompass the provinces of Brandenburg, Pomerania, Danzig, West Prussia, East Prussia, (the land we used to call East Germany), all of northern Poland, and wide flanks of western Russia. He nevertheless contrived to die aged 74 while sitting in his favourite armchair.

His son Frederick Wilhelm II (1786-1797) cared more for the arts than for warfare. His lasting monument is Berlin's Brandenburg



Prussia – where does that name come from?

While Saxon kingdoms in Britain (Mercia, Wessex, Northumbria, et al) competed to rule territory that eventually became England, an obscure Continental tribe – the Borussi – struggled to hold their lands between the rivers Vistula and Niemen in the Baltic Region. Germanic Saxon tribes from the west attacked the Borussi in the 10th century intent on imposing Christianity; but the Borussi fought back and retained their pagan beliefs until the 13th century when the Teutonic Knights, a Crusader Order encouraged by the Pope to spread Christianity, eventually defeated the Borussi and opened a route for emigration from lands we now call Germany and Holland. It was probably at that time that linguistic changes altered Borussi to Porussi. The Teutonic Knights soon wiped out the Porussi and usurped their name to become Christian Prussians. Despite similarities in spelling, however, there was never an etymological link between the names Prussia and Russia.

Above: Frederick William III 1802 thaler. Reverse supporters are spirits of the forest, anciently worshipped in Prussia

Right: the reverse of this 1818 thaler displays the emblems of war



Gate, which he commissioned in 1788 as a memorial to peace. Frederick Wilhelm III (1797-1840), hoped to avoid the expense of war and refused to join coalitions against France, holding rigidly to Prussian neutrality until 1806 when he threw most of his by then poorly trained regiments into the Battle of Jena where Napoleon routed them and forced a surrender of almost half of Prussia's lands. They were regained following Prussia's resounding victory at Leipzig in 1813. Commemorative coins were struck to mark that victory; and the king also created the Iron Cross as a military decoration after the battle. All territories previously lost were recovered at peace negotiations

following Napoleon's final defeat at Waterloo; but there were few new territorial gains for Prussia during this reign. Friedrich Wilhelm III did, however, amalgamate all of his territories into a single customs-free zone (zollverein) to bind together his somewhat disjointed extended kingdom and to benefit trade between neighbouring regions. An innovation in coinage occurred in 1821 with the introduction of the silbergroschen and a new currency system in which 12 pfennige = 1 silbergroschen; and 30 silbergroschen = 1 thaler.

During the reign of Frederick Wilhelm IV (1840-1861) all German speaking states made a decision to bind together even more closely to combat threats from simmering Republicanism in France. In 1849 the Frankfurt parliament offered the King of Prussia the crown of Germany. However he rejected the offer at that time; but in 1857 23 states adopted a new coin – the Vereinsthaler (Union Thaler) – and formed a German government. The Vereinsthaler was very slightly heavier than the thaler it replaced, but it retained the same subdivisions of 30 silbergroschen, each of 12 pfennige.

Wilhelm I (1861-1888), who succeeded to the Prussian throne on the death of his father, also became the first German Emperor. In 1870, during the Franco-Prussian War, Wilhelm was in command of all the German forces at the crucial Battle of Sedan where the French suffered utter defeat. After the surrender ceremony in January 1871, Prussian statesman Otto von Bismarck proclaimed

Right, from top: Wilhelm I and Augusta, King and Queen of Prussia; 1861, crown thaler. Their initials on reverse with the Hohenzollern motto SUUM CUIQUE (To Each His Own). Gott mit uns (God with us) incised in coin's edge; Wilhelm I Vereinsthaler 1866



the German Empire with Wilhelm I of Prussia as its emperor. The proclamation was loudly applauded by all Germans present.

A new imperial coinage introduced the mark; valued it at a third of a taler; with each mark made up of 100 pfennige, and with 10 pfennige to 1 groschen. To symbolise unification the coins received a unified obverse design depicting the imperial eagle, date, denomination and the legend 'DEUTSCHES REICH'. Individual states could choose their own reverse designs.

Frederick III, only son of Wilhelm I, succeeded in 1888 but died of

a brain tumour just a few months into his reign. Next in line was grandson William II (1888-1918 abdicated) who, in 1914, became unaffectionately known to Britons as Kaiser Bill. He went into exile in Holland in November 1918 when monarchies and nobilities were swept away during the German Revolution. The Kingdom of Prussia was thus abolished and became a republic – the Free State of Prussia – until 1933 when the Nazis took power. After Germany's defeat in the Second World War, Poland and the Soviet Union divided its lands. In 1947 Prussia was officially abolished.



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A brief introduction to **unofficial farthings**

Ed Fletcher discovers the history of unofficial farthings and their widespread use in the towns of Victorian Britain, providing collectors with plenty of inspiration to pursue the unique coins

Farthings, the most commonly exchanged coins to pass through the work-roughened hands of the poor in days gone by, blighted labourers' lives during at least thirty reigns spanning more than 800 years. Few monarchs paid heed to pleas for small change, arguing that the cost of striking farthings amounted to four times the expense incurred when striking pennies, meaning that labourers had to make do with quarter and half segments of silver pennies (perhaps cut by local blacksmiths); or else put their faith in leaden discs which passed as farthings within closed communities.

As the centuries progressed, excuses for not striking farthings included a statement that mints were too busy striking higher denominations, or that the cost of silver bullion was rising too steeply for the Mint to afford striking farthing flans, or – on the very few occasions when silver farthings were struck – that labourers dropping and

The tokens were not official and earned the name 'farthings' due to their size, similar to the circulated coin



losing so many of the tiny coins that were in circulation that the Exchequer always failed to profit from providing silver coins for the poor.

In the 17th century, several monarchs of the Stuart dynasty, including James I, Charles I and Charles II, managed to squeeze profits from farthings for the poor by selling licences to make them to favourite courtiers who produced and sold flimsy, underweight copper, bronze and even pewter specimens. These proved all too easy targets for those forgers who made fakes that were even more underweight, resulting in a total loss of confidence by the poor in non-regal farthings.

Not until the reign of William and Mary were full-weight regal copper farthings finally struck, though even then in too small a number to satisfy the small change needs of an entire nation. Georgian kings added the

costs of fighting foreign wars (against American Colonists and Napoleon) to their list of excuses for not issuing enough small change.

The unofficial farthings period

In the early years of the 19th century, the Royal Mint moved from the Tower of London to new premises on Tower Hill where steam-powered presses provided an opportunity to re-coin all of Britain's money. This work commenced in 1817, but as in years gone by, farthings were among the last denominations to which the new Mint turned its attention.

Society's least privileged people had to wait until 1821 before they could handle precision-made farthings from a steam-powered press and appreciate the superiority of the new workmanship. Jumping the gun in 1817, the government had outlawed all tokens,



long before any new copper coinage reached the poor who needed it most. The poor and the shopkeepers who served their needs had no choice but to continue using tokens, however worn, no matter the severity of threatened punishments if caught.

Die sinkers and token manufacturers in Birmingham, witnessing the demise of their markets for bogus copper halfpennies, must have listened with interest to legal opinion in a number of court cases that copper discs having no denomination stated could not be regarded as token coinage. Their agents must have visited shopkeepers who had aspirations to expand their businesses, as well as a desperate need for farthings not yet issued by the Mint, and convinced them that Birmingham could supply neatly engraved and well-struck farthing-sized discs that would admirably serve as change, while at the same time promoting a particular shop address.

By the time regal farthings came on the scene in 1821, the benefits of using these discs, and the willingness of customers to accept them in change, carried many into local circulation. When the price of copper rose and supplies of regal farthings fell short of demand, as happened during 1849 to 1854, the private issuers were not constrained by any requirement to maintain a specific weight for their wares.

Firms with somewhat less pressing needs for farthings in their tills probably saw them as vehicles for advertising their company name and address; for illustrating the goods they made or sold; or the services they supplied. In modern marketing terms, they were often promotional giveaways. A silvered brass disc with a well executed image of a mounted dragoon might have been passed around and admired among neighbours who would have noticed the address of the shopkeeper on the other side. Those that promoted 'Half Guinea Hats' or 'Thirteen Shilling Trousers' seem unlikely to have served as token farthings for the poor. Some collectors have suggested that they were used as giveaways and slipped by the retailers into hatbands and trouser pockets to remind customers of the address of the shop where the garment was purchased.

Perhaps 2,000 of what modern collectors have come to call unofficial farthings were created during the reign of Victoria and her close predecessors.

Issuers spanned England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland and the goods and services they promoted visually included everyday needs such as tobacco, candles, tea, coffee, sugar, loaves of bread and clogs; as well as the stock-in-trade of firms seeking to attract customers from slightly higher up the social ladder: game birds, pocket watches, spectacles, barometers, saddlery, travel trunks and many other products of Britain's Industrial Revolution.

Queen Victoria's bust graced one side of many unofficial farthings; a design that did not go unnoticed by the criminal classes:

Sarah Hodgkinson, a domestic servant, pleaded guilty at Flintshire Quarter Sessions to obtaining 20 shillings from a shopkeeper by inducing him to accept as a sovereign a polished brass advertising token. She was sentenced to one month's imprisonment.

Cheshire Observer, 1863

And:

Thomas Sharp, a boy not yet ten years of age, purchased two penny tarts for which he tendered a metal advertising medal, pretending he had handed over a genuine shilling. As it was dusk, the shopkeeper failed to notice that it was in fact a silvered brass piece which the boy had previously rubbed for some minutes with silver polish.

Stirling Observer, 1860

By the 1880s, regal farthings had become over-abundant in the nation's loose change, as this news snippet from the Huddersfield Chronicle in 1887 shows:

Foreign pennies and halfpennies are not the only copper coins sometimes difficult to get rid of. In many northern towns it has become almost impossible to find a use for farthings. With shopkeepers in those regions the half of 10½d is 5½d; and if a lady pays a draper 1s. 11¾d and puts down a two-shilling piece, she receives a packets of pins or sewing needles by way of change. The fourth part of a penny is indeed a lowly coin; but it ought to be readily current anywhere in the kingdom.

Note: As our eye-catching illustrations show, there are still unofficial farthings well-worth collecting if this brief introduction has aroused your interest. All images are used courtesy of Rare Coins & Tokens. See more for sale on their website: www.rarecoinsandtokens.co.uk





INTERACTIVE GALLERIES

Tap the coin to flip it over

A silver penny for an Anglo-Saxon queen

The two gold coins issued during Offa's reign, one an imitation of an Islamic dinar, the other a copy of a late Roman aureus from Lugdunum (Lyon), speak of a kingdom with bold and international connections and aspirations. Indeed, in contemporary correspondences the great Frankish king and emperor Charlemagne refers to Offa on equal terms, calling him 'brother'. The silver coinage was also notable, in particular for the accomplished portraiture used. The quality is such that it would not be matched in British coinage until the late fifteenth century at the very earliest, on the Renaissance inspired testoons and groats of Henry VII. Among the many monetary innovations of Offa's reign lies one which is equally remarkable and this is the subject discussed below.

To modern Western eyes, particularly in Britain, the idea of portraying the queen on a coin could not be more usual. From Cleopatra VII's issues as the last queen of Egypt (51-30 BC) to our most recent coins of Elizabeth II, female monarchs are familiar and have occurred throughout history, at least for queens who were rulers in their own right. A less common experience is for queen consorts – those women who became queen through marriage to a king – to find themselves named or depicted on the currency. Perhaps only in the Roman Empire did this occur with any regularity as emperors had coins struck in the names of their wives and children, but for other periods and cultures they remain rare.

This coin from the collection of the British Museum's Department

This rare coin is the only type known from England to name a queen, Cynethryth, wife of king Offa of Mercia

of Coins and Medals is one of these rarities. It is an Anglo-Saxon silver penny – the coin used in most of Europe in this period, the penny in England, denier in France, pfennig in Germany and denaro in Italy. It was minted in the kingdom of Mercia, which at its apogee controlled most of England south of the Humber, and weighs a little over a gram. We don't know the specific mint as this is not indicated on the coin, however we do have the name of the moneyer responsible for the piece – a man called EOBA. The bust is not a likeness of this man, rather it is a loose copy of a Roman design. But it is the reverse that is key to the story of this piece. The circumferential inscription reads 'CYNETHRYTH REGINA' around the 'M' for Mercia in the centre. This rare coin (and a similar type without a portrait) is the only type known from England to name a queen, Cynethryth, wife of king Offa of Mercia. It has been suggested that perhaps inspiration for it came from examples of Irene, the Byzantine empress who appears on

The reign of Offa, king of Mercia (757-96), was remarkable in so many ways. Of all the Anglo-Saxon kings before Alfred the Great, his name looms largest.

The numismatic picture is little different as some of the most stunning and unique coins of the 8th century were struck in his name

the coins of her son Constantine VI from 780.

Several suggestions have been mooted as to why coins were struck in her name. Some believe that she was a significant royal figure who wielded real political power alongside her husband. Others posit that they were coins specially struck for use as oblations and gifts to the church, albeit 'signed' by the queen in a unique way. But the most plausible explanation is the simplest and perhaps evokes something of what we know about the king. Offa knew that some Roman emperors had issued coins in the names of their wives, and was imitating this aspect of the Roman past as we know many European monarchs did in the centuries after the fall of the Empire. Many rulers of the successor states which followed Rome based their legitimacy on the adoption of Roman ideas, places and iconography, as for example did Charlemagne. This coin is a small but important piece of the story of the formation of the kingdom of England.

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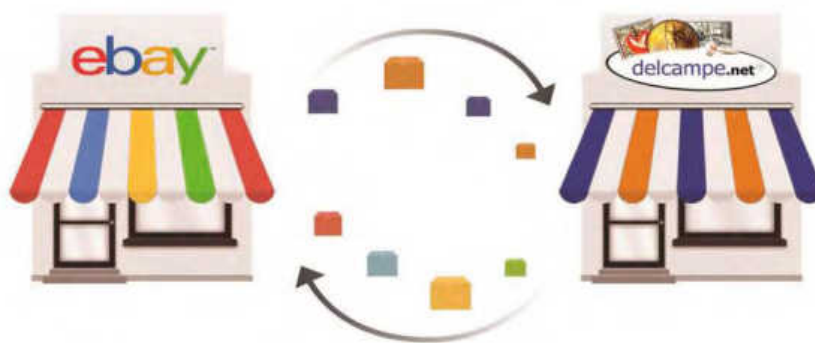
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Philatelic revenge

Fed up with competitors stealing content from his philatelic journal, Belgian publisher Jean Baptiste Moens decided to play a complex hoax, leaving today's collectors with a unique rarity to pursue. By Christer Brunström



The world's very first postage stamp was issued on 6 May, 1840 and it was not long before stamp collecting was a popular pastime. In the early 1860s trade in stamps had already begun and the first stamp journals were published. One of the pioneers in this area was the Belgian Jean Baptiste Moens. He published *Le Timbre-Poste* from 1863 until 1900. Quite early on Moens had established a worldwide network of correspondents who kept him up to date with the latest news about new stamp issues.

Other publishers did not have the same reliable contacts and solved the problem by simply pinching the information from other publications without giving credit to the source. It was mainly Moens' magazine which was targeted and this, of course, upset him.

The bogus stamp was created to catch out rival journalists, who often relied on Moens' *Le Timbre-Poste* publication for their source of philatelic information

He wanted to expose his competitors and found the solution nearby. The territory of Moresnet on the Belgo-Prussian border was administered jointly by the two countries. The reason for this rather curious arrangement was a conflict about the area's mineral resources.

The neutral territory had been created in 1816 through an agreement between the Netherlands and Prussia. In 1830 Belgium took over responsibility from the Dutch.

On 1 April, 1867 readers of *Le Timbre-Poste* were informed about a new issue from Moresnet. It depicted the coat of arms of the territory and the wording 'Commune Libre de Moresnet'. The denomination was 10 centimes.

The Moresnet coat of arms was composed of the Belgian lion and the Prussian eagle. The future of Moresnet was one of the topics at the 1919 peace conference in Versailles where it was decided to hand it over to Belgium. During its 103-year-long existence the territory of Moresnet had been served by the Belgian and German postal services.

A detailed letter signed by J.S. Neom (Moens backwards) was also printed. In it the new stamp issue was described.

As Moens had expected, the same information was printed in the magazines of his main competitors a few weeks later. The editors apparently felt that it was only natural that Moresnet would get a stamp of its own.

Gloatingly Moens

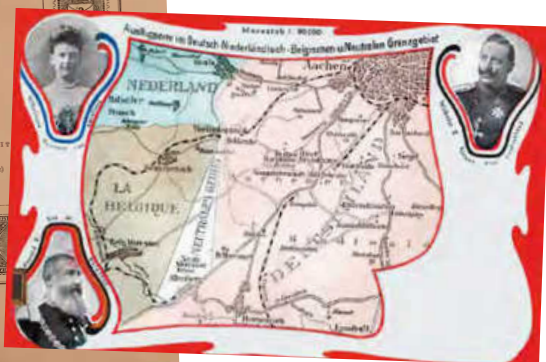
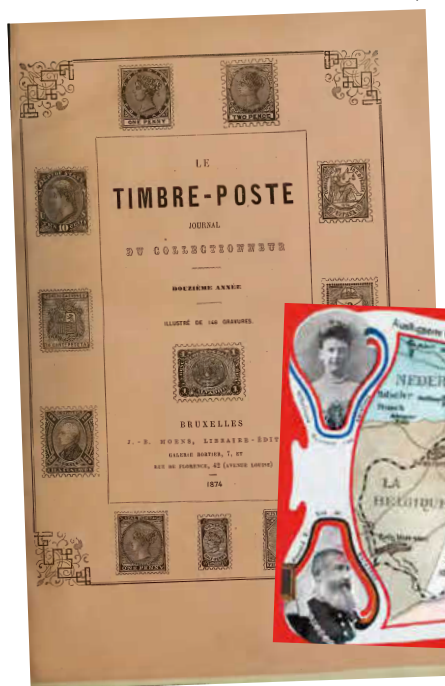
could then reveal his 1 April hoax, pointing his finger at his mostly French competitors. Maury had devoted a page and a half to the Moresnet stamp issue in *Le Collectionneur de Timbres-poste*. Mahé had printed the information in *Le Timbrophile* and reportedly he became absolutely mad when the truth dawned upon him. It seems Moens and Mahé later became good friends.

Moens had spent a lot of money preparing the printing cliché for his hoax. In order to recover his expenses he had a number of sheets of 25 printed in different colours.

Moens has made a name for himself in philatelic history as the man responsible for the numerous reprints of the stamps of Bergedorf, Romagna and the Papal States. His reputation as a serious philatelist seems to be somewhat exaggerated. According to Varro E. Tyler in his book *Philatelic Forgers* (Perth, Scotland, 1976) it was Moens' brother-in-law Louis Hanciau who edited the magazine and wrote the philatelic treatises which are credited to Moens.

Finding a Moresnet stamp has long been on many collectors' wants lists. Recently I was able to purchase one on an electronic auction site but when it arrived it turned out to be a modern creation. Perhaps it came from the 1968 reprints using the original cliché as told by Roger Vervisch in *Les Timbres de Fantaisie* (Brussels 1992).

I paid more than £10 for the stamp which is not an unreasonable price to pay for such an interesting story.



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Welcome to **SPRING STAMPEX 2016**

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PTS Stamp & Coin Exhibitions Ltd.

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Members: Colin Avery, Brian Bayford, Simon Carson, Stuart Henderson, Rick Warren.

Secretary: Lucie Warren

Sponsors: Stanley Gibbons



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For more details on *Stamp & Coin Mart* magazine visit:

www.stampandcoin.co.uk

See page 33 for an exclusive offer from *Stamp & Coin Mart*

Another exciting year of philately awaits us all and here at Stampex we are beginning to celebrate our sixtieth anniversary!

We've been working hard over the past few months bringing the show together and designing our Smilers Sheet (available from the Information Stand) and commemorative postcard to mark this fabulous occasion. The PTS, as always, is delighted to be a key part of Europe's premier stamp show, here at the Business Design Centre in Islington, and we continue to promote philately globally so that this wonderful hobby may continue to flourish with future generations.

We welcome back many familiar faces at Stampex and are delighted to see so many of you here with us, and welcome some new faces too! Special thanks to Royal Mail for once again exhibiting; we encourage you to make full use of their 'Post & Go' service area. We also say a warm welcome to the ABPS team for their wonderful exhibitors' area which centres around 'The Seven Nations Challenge'. You will find the displays towards the rear of the Mezzanine area, as always. Please also take the time to visit the Stamp Active Network stands which you will find up in the Gallery Bays. John Davies and his team are looking forward to meeting you and your children/grandchildren. Don't miss their exciting auction on Saturday!

We'd like to say a big thank you to the team at *Stamp & Coin Mart* for once again producing a fantastic show guide and hope that you find it full of all the facts about the show you were expecting. If we've missed anything out, feel free to let any of the Stampex Committee know, including myself so that we can feature it next time. Enjoy the show!

Lucie Warren, Secretary, PTS



As editor of *Stamp & Coin Mart* magazine I've clocked up quite a few Stampex visits over the years. Attending the show is always fun and it's great to see so many friendly faces and catch up with readers.

I'd love to know more about those early shows when the event was a newer addition to the philatelic calendar. As Lucie explains above, Stampex is celebrating its sixtieth anniversary and we'd like to feature some memories and photos from past shows in the next Stampex show guide in September. If you have some Stampex stories or pictures to share, please do get in touch (matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk).



This edition of the Stampex guide includes pull-out vouchers, giving you some great discounts to use at Stampex. I do hope these exclusive vouchers, and the vast range of material available at the show, make this a fruitful and fun Stampex for you all.

Matt Hill, Editor, *Stamp & Coin Mart*

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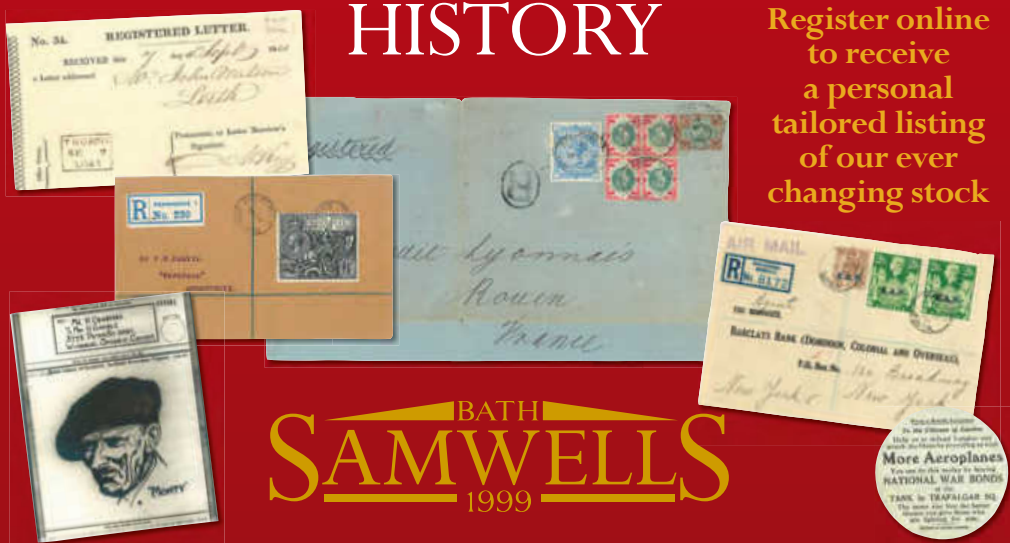
62 FUTURE DATES...

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Also available on 17 February:

- Royal Mail 500 (except the Prestige Stamp Book)
- Post & Go: Royal Mail Heritage – Transport
- Post & Go: Illustrator Andrew Davidson will be on the stand from 2-3pm to sign your items

Also available on 18 February:

- Royal Mail 500 Prestige Stamp Book
- The 175th Anniversary of the Penny Red Generic Sheet and Stamp Book



Royal Mail

Your guide to **SPRING STAMPEX 2016**

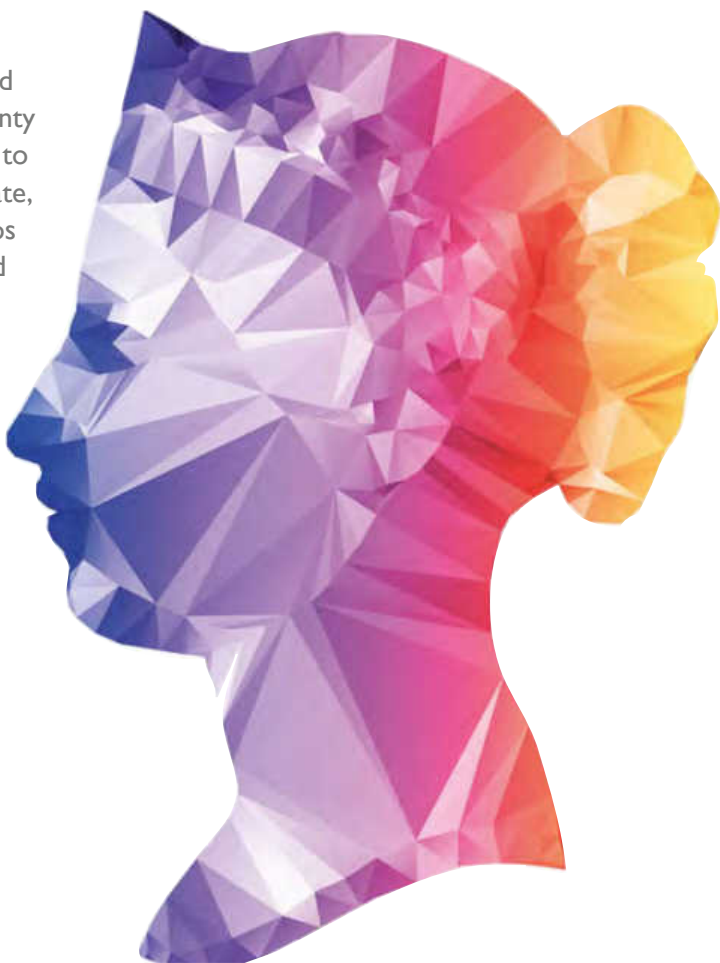


Stampex is sixty years old this year and there are plenty of reasons to come along to the show and help celebrate, including the latest stamps from post offices, limited edition souvenirs and a prestigious exhibition

We celebrate the Diamond Anniversary of the very first Stampex with a limited edition postcard featuring a special 'diamond design'. The postcard will be given away free to the first 7,000 visitors at the show. The souvenir Smilers Sheet also celebrates the anniversary, with ten different Stampex postmarks each featured on a label beside a 'Happy Birthday' 1st Class stamp. The Smilers Sheets are available to buy from the Information Stand, while stocks last.

Royal Mail 500

Royal Mail are also celebrating a significant milestone at Stampex, as they mark 500 years of operating a regular, organised postal service.



OPENING HOURS

Wed 17 Feb - 11.30am to 7pm
Thurs/Fri 18-19 Feb - 10am to 6pm
Sat 19 Feb - 10am to 5pm

VENUE

Business Design Centre,
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Royal Mail are celebrating 500 years of the postal service with new stamps

The 500th anniversary is being marked with the launch of a new website (www.royalmailgroup.com/500years) and the release of six new stamps and a four-stamp miniature sheet on the first day of the show, which reflect the history of the postal service. Available at the large stand at the back of the hall the 'Royal Mail 500' miniature sheet shows classic GPO posters, while a prestige stamp book featuring a brand new Penny Red definitive stamp, marking the 175th anniversary of the famous Victorian stamp, will also be popular. Many collectors will head straight to the Royal Mail stand once they arrive at Stampex to purchase a numbered, limited edition pack featuring the Classic GPO Posters miniature sheet with a Stampex overprint. With the overprinted sheet unlikely to be made available anywhere else, it is set to become a rare GB item and could go up in value.

Royal Mail's new transport-themed Post & Go stamps will also be available from the Post & Go kiosk machines, alongside Post & Go stamps from Jersey and Guernsey. The Isle of Man Post Office, Jersey Post and Guernsey Post will be offering a range of stamps, first day covers and collectables at Stand 55, giving collectors of the islands a chance to add to their collection.

Penny Red imperf display

To mark the 175th Anniversary of the 1841 Penny Red stamp, the Village Green area will play host to a display of some of the finest 1841 Penny Red imperfs in existence.

For those with an interest in the

postal service itself, a visit to The Postal Museum stand (118a) is recommended. Formerly known as the BPMA, The Postal Museum is set to open in London in 2017, featuring interactive exhibition spaces covering five centuries of social and communications history, and an immersive underground ride on the hidden Mail Rail. Find out more about this exciting project and how you can be involved at the stand.

Of course, the show also offers philatelic material on all manner of subjects, with auction houses, stamp dealers and postal history experts on hand to give advice and offer items. You can see the full list of standholders on page 14.



The sixtieth anniversary of Stampex is celebrated on the limited edition postcard and Smilers Sheet



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SPECIALIST SOCIETY MEETINGS

Saturday 20 February, 2016

Room A

10.30am - 12.30pm
Ceylon Study Circle

12.30pm - 2.30pm
Bird Stamp Society

2.30pm - 4.30pm
Egypt Study Circle

Room C

11am - 5pm
Great Britain
Philatelic Society (GBPS)

Room E

10am - 12 noon
Concorde Study Circle

12.30pm - 4.30pm
British Postmark Society

Room F

10am - 12 noon
Transvaal Study Circle

12 noon - 2pm
Scout & Guide Stamps Club

3pm - 5pm
Malta Study Circle

Meeting rooms are located next to the gallery bays



The Business Design Centre is the perfect venue for a stamp exhibition

Seven Nations Challenge

Some of the world's most renowned collections will be on display at Stampex as part of the international exhibition known as the Seven Nations Challenge. Previously held in Australia and Sweden, the exhibition's arrival in London gives British collectors the chance to see some very rare material and discover fascinating insights into the philately and postal history of many corners of the globe. Organised by the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) in association with German organisation Bund Deutscher Philatelisten (BDPh), the exhibit is said to offer 'something for everyone'. You can see full details of the exhibit, together with listings of the ABPS National Competition, on page 45.

Young collectors

As ever, the Kids Corner, run by Stamp Active Network, will be welcoming younger collectors to the show, with activities and plenty of stamps on offer. Once again a free prize draw will take place after the children's auction on Saturday for all adults who visit the Kids Corner with a child at any time during the week. Prizes include a year's subscription to *Stamp & Coin Mart* magazine.

Don't miss the kids' auction on Saturday!

Kids Corner can be found in gallery bays 14 and 15 and the popular kids' auction will take place at 2pm on Saturday.

Societies at Stampex

Many philatelic societies choose Stampex as a meeting venue and you can see the list of Saturday meetings on the left. Non-members are welcome and there are a host of subjects covered.

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C.G.

Your in-depth guide to STAMPEX STAND-HOLDERS

This guide provides you with information of every stand-holder at the exhibition, including details of their stock. Stand-holders are listed alphabetically with their stand number.

Turn to the centre pages for the floor plan of the event to locate each stand. The colour of the larger, featured listings corresponds to the colour shown on the floorplan.

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G1

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those outside of the immediate, established philatelic world. She encourages people to make their own stamp art and is active on various social media networks. She hopes to inspire the next generation of philatelists whilst having a bit of fun along the way.

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Robert Danzig 66
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Duncannon Partnership (Lighthouse) 17
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12

Great Britain Philatelic Society (GBPS)

118

The GBPS was founded in 1955 by a small but enthusiastic group of collectors in order to promote, encourage, and contribute to the advancement of the philately of Great Britain. Since then it has grown steadily, and now has more than 700 members in the UK and abroad. The Society deals with all aspects of GB philately, and has contributed much to the field; this is certain to continue as new members with fresh ideas join.

Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions

63

Auctioneers of Great Britain, British Empire and World stamps including postal history.

Guernsey Post

55

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Information Stand 117

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Isle of Man Post 78

Isle of Man Stamps & Coins, with Gibraltar Stamps and Benhams will showcase new issues including: Long To Reign Over Us, 90th Birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth by Royal Photographer Arthur Edwards MBE.

Japan Philatelic Group Ltd G25A

Japan, Ryukyu, Manchoukuo, stamps and postal history.

Jersey Post 55

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The new site also features a new shop, allowing users to purchase back issues and subscriptions to *Stamp & Coin Mart* and our popular digital publication *Coin Collecting Magazine*. Visit the site at: www.stampandcoin.co.uk

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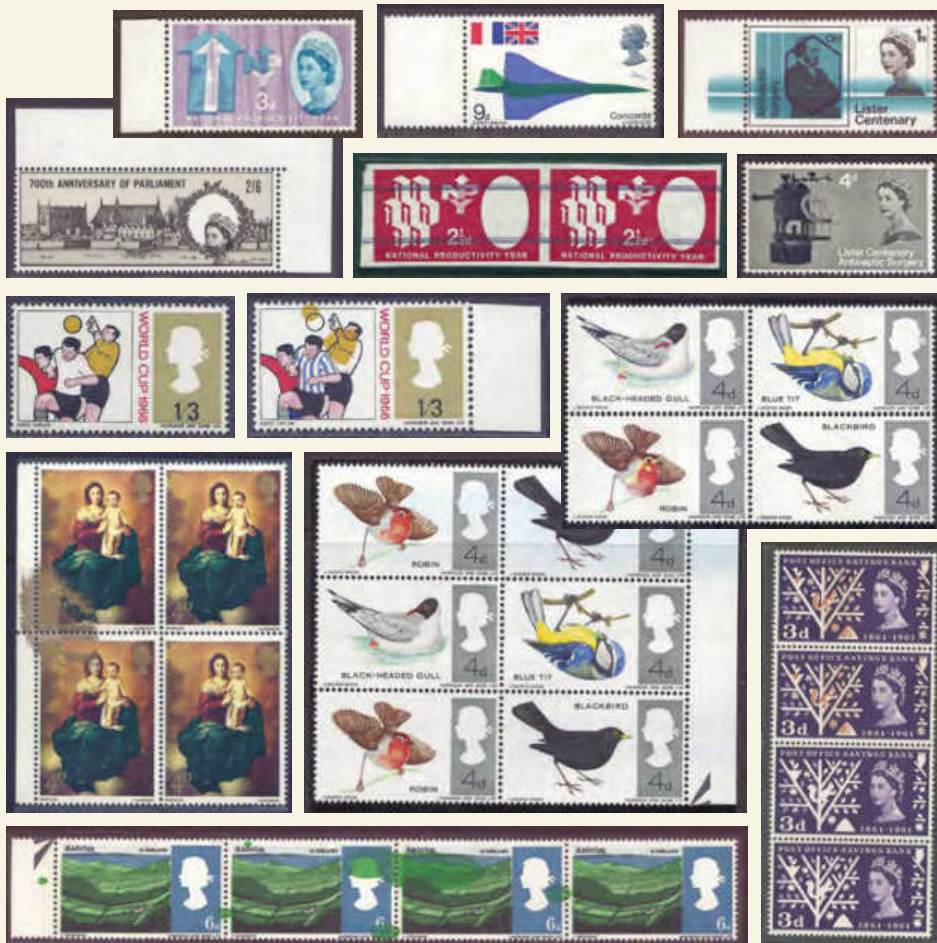
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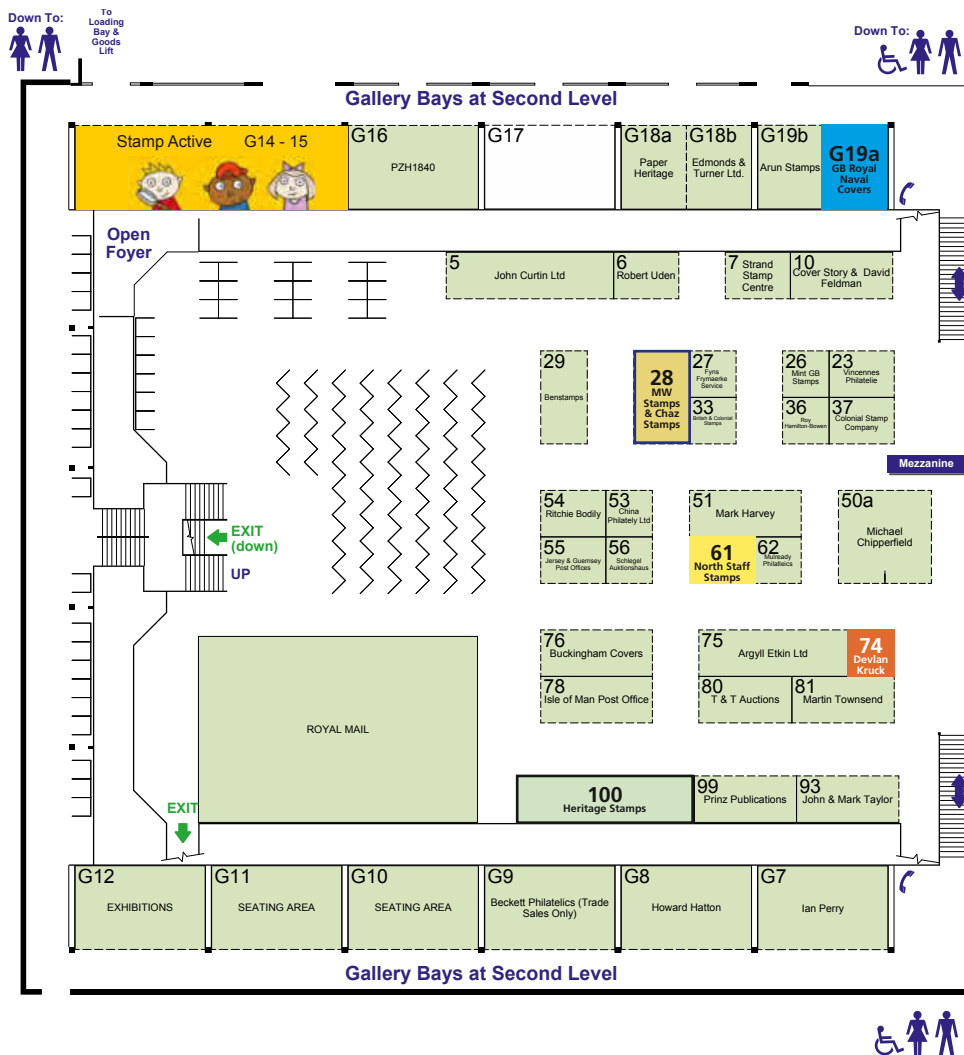
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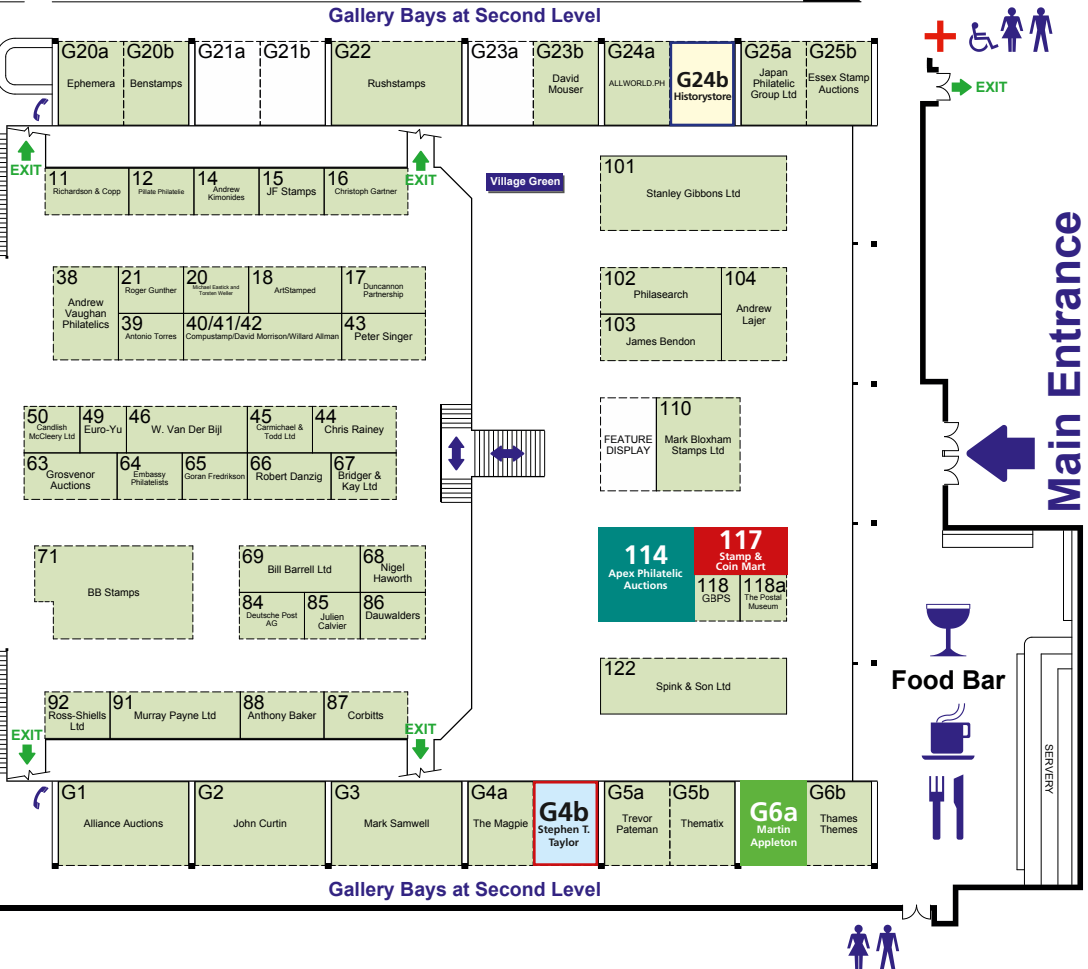
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12d. carmine-red lower left
corner block of twelve
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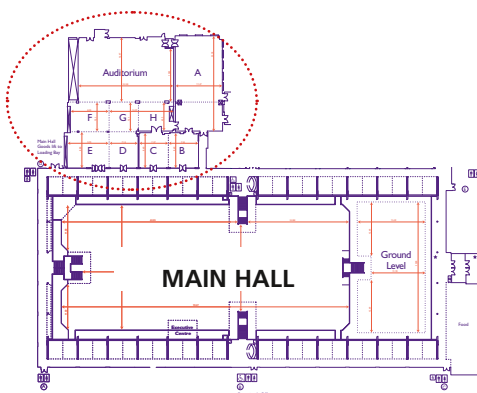
SOCIETY MEETINGS

20 FEBRUARY 2016



Philatelic society meetings will take place on Saturday 20 February.

The meeting rooms are located alongside the gallery bays on the first floor, as shown below.



Room A

10.30am - 12.30pm
Ceylon Study Circle

12.30pm - 2.30pm
Bird Stamp Society

2.30pm - 4.30pm
Egypt Study Circle

Room C

11am - 5pm
Great Britain
Philatelic Society (GBPS)

Room E

10am - 12 noon
Concorde Study Circle

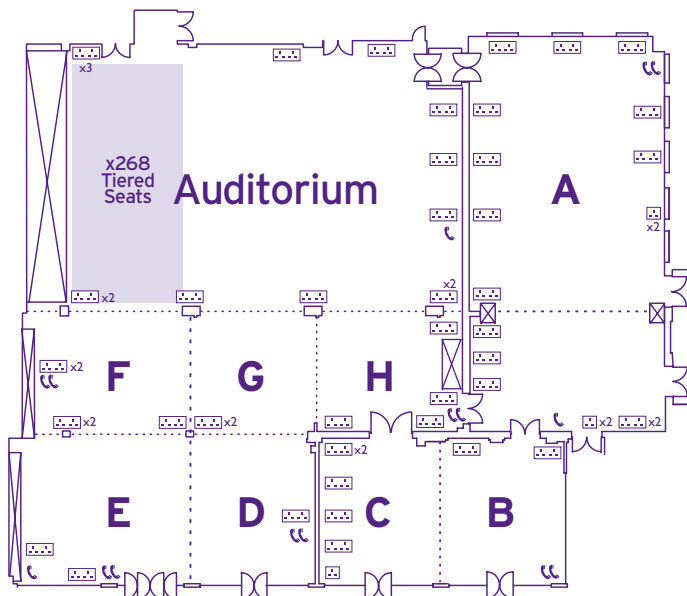
12.30pm - 4.30pm
British Postmark Society

Room F

10am - 12 noon
Transvaal Study Circle

12 noon - 2pm
Scout & Guide Stamps Club

3pm - 5pm
Malta Study Circle



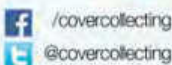


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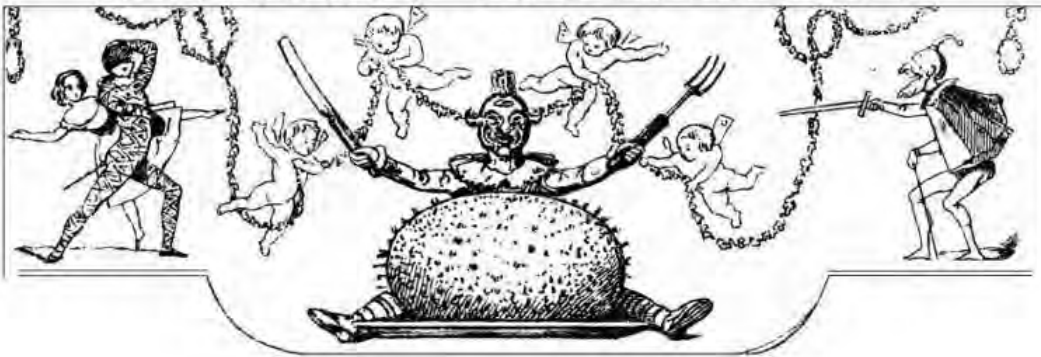
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A new style for a new era



In an article first published in *Stamp & Coin Mart* magazine, author Chris West describes the popularity of Art Deco designs in the early 20th century and picks out a beautifully designed Art Deco stamp from Mexico

The Art Deco style developed as a reaction to the fanciful, sinuous, vaguely decadent world of Art Nouveau. It was clean-lined, geometric, muscular, enthusiastically modern and often celebrated machinery or physical labour. It was optimistic: dating from the mid-1920s, it was a clear statement that the bad old days of the First World War and the depression that followed were over. It was ambitious: Art Deco was not just 'art' but used in architecture and industrial design. Londoners can see its influence in Battersea power station, Broadcasting House, and Charles Holden's tube stations on the outer reaches of the Piccadilly line.

Art historians enjoy arguing about when the movement began, but it first came to public attention in 1925, when the Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes was held in Paris (celebrated in six stamps,



one of the earliest sets of French commemoratives). The expo attracted designers from all over the world: Art Deco soon became a global style, and as such features on stamps of many nations. The Netherlands led the way: two stamps celebrating the centenary of the nation's lifeboats are pure Art Deco, and were issued the year before

the Expo. France, Germany and Austria soon followed: Austria's 1925 Postage Due labels are classics. British stamp-design was late to adopt the style, but when we did, we did so with huge panache via Barnett Freedman's 1935 Silver Jubilees.

Art Deco was also embraced in Latin America – especially Mexico. The nation had

endured two and a half decades of turmoil since a revolution had overthrown dictator Porfirio Díaz in 1910. Two presidents were assassinated, in 1920 and 1928. In 1934, however, General Lázaro Cárdenas took

Unlike many world leaders, he did not use his position to line his pockets: on leaving office, he lived in relative simplicity, devoting himself to educational and land-improvement projects.

1950 Air Mail (Correo Aereo) series featuring imagery from Mexico's vanished, rich past. In a long career, Eppens designed over 100 stamps, and oversaw the creation of as many more. He also

Francisco Eppens designed over 100 stamps for Mexico during the middle of the 20th century, often using the Art Deco style

power and held onto it. He had a radical agenda. Land was redistributed to peasant farmers and the railways nationalised. Laws were put in place to protect indigenous minorities. The president halved his own salary and moved from the former presidential mansion, the magnificent Chapultepec Castle (now Mexico's Museum of National History). In 1938, the oil industry was nationalised. The new regime was authoritarian, corporatist and left of centre, but kept its distance from the Soviet Union: in 1936 Cárdenas welcomed Stalin's arch-enemy Leon Trotsky to Mexico – an unfortunate move for the veteran Bolshevik, as he was murdered there in August 1940.

Cárdenas' party, the PRI, would rule until 2000, though the General later became disillusioned with it.

Art Deco, with its forward-looking, populist mindset, was an ideal house-style for the new government.

This stamp is by Francisco Eppens. Born in 1913, Eppens was a prodigy, enrolling in the National Art School aged fourteen. By the time he was 22, he was taken on by the Talleres de Impresión de Estampillas y Valores de México, designing stamps for the nation – it was 1935, and Cárdenas' new government wanted work with a fresh, young spirit. Eppens went on to design some of Mexico's finest stamps: the one above; the 1 centavo 'giant mosquito' anti-malaria stamp from 1939; the 5 centavo 'Helmsman' from 1940; the magnificent motorcyclist from the 1954 Special Delivery series; most famous of all, perhaps, the

redesigned his nation's coat of arms in 1968; this now features on Mexico's coins and its national flag.



'Stamp story' article first published in the popular *Stamp & Coin Mart* magazine.

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CHAMPIONSHIP
EXHIBITION

PHILATAIPEI 2016

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SPRING STAMPEX EXHIBITS

Some of the world's most prestigious collections will be on show at Stampex as part of the Seven Nations Challenge, while a National Competition offers a range of displays across many classes. See the full details of these 'must-see' exhibits below and find out a little more about the special philatelic 'Challenge'

The Seven Nations Challenge presents 28 world-class exhibits from Denmark, Sweden, Belgium, Great Britain, Germany, Australia and the USA. The eight-frame collections cover a good range of classes, including Aerophilately, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Revenues, Thematics, and Traditional.

As Chris King, the Chair of ABPS National Exhibitions and International Committee, explains, the special exhibition gives Stampex visitors the chance to see high quality material. 'It's a good opportunity to see a small scale, but high quality, very interesting exhibition without having to browse through the hundreds of frames seen at a larger international exhibition,' Chris says. 'It's a concentration of special exhibits.'

The Seven Nations Challenge was first held in Australia and the second in Malmo, Sweden two years ago. Now the ABPS is hosting the exhibition in conjunction with the German philatelic group the Bund Deutscher Philatelisten (BDPh), giving British collectors the chance to see the often rare material close up. With so many subjects covered, visitors are encouraged to take time out from the busy trade stands to take a look at what is on display. From 'one of the top UK thematics exhibitions' to 'probably the best classic Denmark material in an exhibition', there really is something for everyone.



Cover sent from Liverpool to Philadelphia 1848 (Frames 120 - 127)

SEVEN NATIONS CHALLENGE

Frame 3 - 10

Mr John Sinfield, Australia

Panama Republic

Postal Stationery to 1940

Panama was originally a province of Colombia, with stationery usage ranging from 1881, and continuing through 1903 independence until production ceased in June 1940. Via proof, mint and used examples, this exhibit illustrates all forms issued during this sixty year period. Panama was not an extensive issuer and as the exhibit points out, most forms were available for extended periods, frequently exceeding 20 years.

Frame 11 - 18

Mr Mark Bottu, Belgium

If you want to be my followers...

Evolution of Western Monastic Life. Trying to give an answer to the questions 'Has Monastic Life a future in the 21st century?', can only be done by means of highlighting what is essential to monastic life (evangelic counsels, vocation, meditation, asceticism, dedicating one's life for other human beings) and how this has been translated throughout the centuries.

Frame 19 - 26

Mr Jørgen Jørgensen, Denmark

Fisheries - from food gathering to feeding the world!

This exhibit begins at a time when women gathered mussels on the beach, it follows the development of more and more effective fishing tackle and boats. It then continues to show the trading and processing of fish developing as separate industries. Technological improvements continue and regulation and environmental protection are a must now and in the future.



Belgian Postal Stationery during the Reign of King Leopold II (Frames 53 - 60)

Frame 27 - 34
Mr Damian Läge, Germany
Fascinated in Feathers –
How Birds Inspire People

Bird tracks which can be found in the culture of mankind reflect experiences and events in the observation in open nature. Therefore, the exhibit draws a double perspective: Firstly, the focus is on the perceiving person with his world view, his aesthetic sensibility and his culinary and social needs. Secondly, the focus is on the bird as a part of a nature which is reliant on the active help of mankind.

Frame 37 - 44
Mr Bengt-Göran Österdahl, Sweden
The History of Chemistry

The exhibit shows the history of chemistry from man's finding how to use nature in prehistoric time up to today's contemporary chemistry as well as the huge problems it has caused to our common environment.

Frame 45 - 52
Mrs Lesley Marley: UK
A Whale's Tale

This Tale explores the world of whales, whose families collectively are known as cetaceans. Showing their origins and how they are superbly adapted to live their lives in water. Their influence on man's past and how he transformed them into the world's

most ignominious shopping list, and after the slaughter, how man is now trying to protect them.

Frame 53 - 60
Mr Luc Selis, Belgium
Usage of Belgian Postal Stationery during the Reign of King Leopold II (1871-1910)

This collection demonstrates the many possibilities of using postal stationery issued during the reign of King Leopold II. Of each issued type, one or more extraordinary pieces are shown. As many details as possible are shown, including postal rates, special cancellations and postal marks, rare destinations and lots more.

Frame 61 - 68
Mr Lars Engelbrecht, Denmark
Bicoloured Postal Stationery of Denmark 1871-1905

The exhibit shows the varieties of the Bicoloured Issue of Danish postal stationery 1871-1905 and is mainly based on the results of the exhibitor's personal study and research. The content of this exhibit is extraordinary by showing all 50 recorded essays (of which 28 are the only recorded) and all 10 recorded proofs of the issue. It also shows all important varieties as well as prime examples of the intended use of the postal stationery as well as mail to numerous distant

countries - and items sent registered, express, COD and as parcel cards - all both domestic and abroad.

Frame 71 - 78
Mr Arnim Knapp, Germany
The Franco-envelopes of the Postal Administration of the Kingdom of Saxony, Development and Use
 Development - history of Franko-Envelopes, without and with additional frankings, cut-outs with postal charges inner Saxony, in the Postal Union (DOPV), abroad in other European countries and overseas in use with various postal services.

Frame 79 - 86
Mr Ross Towle, USA
Postal Stationery of Chile: 1872-1929

Exhibit of Chilean postal stationery from the De La Rue issue of cards and envelopes through the 1929 revalues of envelopes. Exhibit contains original research from the business papers of De La Rue and American Bank Note Co. and the national archives of Chile



Waterbury cancellation picturing a fish. The Fish Fancy Cork was in use for only five days, from 16 to 20 August, 1866. The cork broke and the rest of the cancellations show a fish without a head (Frames 19 - 26)

Frame 87 - 94

Mr Stephen Browne, Australia
The Postal History of New South Wales 1801 - 1849

This exhibit traces the development of postal services in the colony of New South Wales from first settlement, covering the establishment of the Post Office in 1810 and the major Postal Acts of 1825 and 1835. The 1849 Postal Act introduced uniform rates and adhesive stamps on 1 January 1850.

Frame 95 - 102

Mr Patrick Maselis, Belgium
Lado - Postal history

The Lado Enclave was an exclave of the Congo Free State and later of Belgian Congo that existed from 1894 until 1910, situated on the west bank of the Upper Nile in what is now South Sudan and north-west Uganda. The exhibit shows the development of the postal history from pre-enclave days in 1842 to the end in 1910 when the area was incorporated into the Sudan on the death of King Leopold II of the Belgians.

Frame 104 - 111

Mr Henrik Mouritsen, Denmark
Danish Postal Rates 1875-1907

This exhibit shows the development of Danish domestic and International postal rates from the introduction of a decimal monetary system on 1st Jan 1907 for all types of mail. This is by far the most complete showing of this subject every exhibited. 50% of the items represent rates recorded in less than 6 examples, and >20% of the shown rates represent the only recorded example.

Frame 112 - 119

Mr Stefan Heijtz, Sweden
St. Helena Postal History 1677-1903

A study of St. Helena's Postal History from the early pre-stamp period until the end of the Victorian era.

Frame 120 - 127

Mr John Barwis: USA
Philadelphia - Great Britain Mails

This exhibit illustrates and explains the evolution of letter mails to, from or through Great Britain from colonial times until the General Postal Union took effect. Highlighted are changes in the mode, efficiency and cost to senders and recipients.

Frame 128 - 135

Mr Alan Holyoake: UK
Secured Delivery Leading to the Introduction of Registration 1201-1862

On 6 Jan 1841 a formal system of registration was introduced in the UK. The need for a secure national system had long been recognised and various earlier systems had existed ensuring the secure delivery of mail. This exhibit traces the complex story of how formal registration evolved from these systems.

Frame 136 - 143

Mr Russell Boylan, Australia
St. Vincent The De La Rue Period

A detailed study including Essays, Proofs, Colour Trials, issued stamps, Specimens and applicable usage of the De La Rue issues of St. Vincent for the period 1882 to 1932.

Frame 144 - 151

Mr Yves Vertommen, Belgium
Les timbres au type Médaille 1849-1866

The collection tries to describe the evolution of the Médaille over the 16 years of legitimate utilisation. It starts with the design proposals and the process of testing the 'Médaille'. Considering the long period of utilisation, many different plates were required to address the wear of the plates. The collection studies those different plates to then review the utilisation of the stamp alongside those 16 years (type of cancellations, usage, administrative marks to finally propose a section devoted to the destinations and associated tariffs.

Frame 152 - 159

Brdr. Engel, Denmark
The Squared Skilling Stamps of Denmark

The collection aims to highlight the variety and beauty of the Danish squared imperforate and rouletted skilling stamps, showing mint and used examples, colours and printings, types and varieties, large multiples and strips, stamps with Danish and foreign cancellations, letters in combination with foreign stamps and unusual, large and rare frankings and usages on letters.

Frame 160 - 167

Mr Rolf-Dieter Jaretsky, Germany
Mexico - 1856 to 1872

Specialised collection of the classic issues of Mexico 1856 - 1872 with the issued provisionals.



4 RBS Thiele III printing corner margin block of eight in unused condition, a truly outstanding gem of Danish philately (Frames 152 - 159)

Frame 168 - 175

Mr Jan Berg, Sweden

Private Ship Letter Stamp Issuing Companies: up to 1900

The exhibit shows essays, proofs, issued stamps, varieties, cancellations and usages from the private ship letter stamp-issuing companies in operation in most parts of the world during the second half of the 19th century.

Frame 176 - 183

Mr Gordon Eubanks, USA

First Federally Issued Postage Stamps of the USA

A comprehensive study of the first two postage stamps issued by the United States including archival material, production varieties, and a diverse range of uses.

Frame 184 - 191

Mr Joseph Hackmey: UK

Classic Switzerland

The exhibit is devoted to the Cantonal stamps and the first federal issues of Switzerland with unused, used, letters and rates.

Frame 192 - 199

Mr Fredrik Ydell, Sweden

Airmail within, from and to Sweden 1809-1930

The purpose of this exhibit is to show the development of the Swedish airmail routes, both within Sweden



Gauthier Frères & Cie, 1856 - 1857. With only nine stamps recorded in total this is the unique example used on a complete cover (Frames 168 - 175)

and, to and from other countries from the first airmail in 1809 and up to 1930.

Frame 200 - 207

Mr Allen Jones, USA

Establishing a United States Transcontinental Air Mail Service May 15 1918 - June 30 1924

The transcontinental air mail route began without a precedent. Once the transcontinental route was operational, then it was developed into a system that would reach all

parts of the United States – which happened after the route was inaugurated on July 1, 1924, a story to be told another time.

Frame 208 - 215

Mr Dave Elsmore, Australia

Queensland Revenues - Adhesive and Impressed Duty 1866-1930

Specialised study of Queensland adhesive and impressed issues to 1930.

Frame 216 - 223

Mr Carsten Mintert, Germany

Das Zeitungsstempelwesen Österreichs 1789-1899 (Newspaper Tax Stamps of Austria 1789-1899)

The display shows the chronological evolution of the Austrian taxation of newspapers from the introduction in the year 1789 till its abolition at the end of 1899. During that time newspapers were required to be taxed so that the government could make an income for each sold and imported newspaper.

As a control mechanism a signet was stamped on the newspaper to show that the tax had been paid; later an adhesive stamp could be affixed instead. During the complex 111-year history the newspaper tax



Earliest registered letter with stamp (Frames 128 - 135)

and its system was closely tied to the political, the cultural, the military and the economic events of the 18th & 19th century. The related adaptations of the newspaper tax system to accommodate new tax laws and currency reforms, as well as philatelic highlights such as tax offices, unusual cancellation, special frankings, different printings, proofs, rare usages, etc. are shown in detail.

Frame 224 - 231

Mr Christopher Harman: UK
The British Stamping Office and
Taxation - Revenue Duties from
1671 to the Great Reform of 1853

The exhibit spans the early period of revenue duties using some of the most interesting, rare and visually attractive material. All revenue stamps were produced by the British Stamping Office until 1853, when the adhesive stamps were produced under their direction by De La Rue.



4th Centenary of the Death of Teresa from Avila. Original drawing. Signature of recorder Jose Luis Angel Garcia and diverse handwritten annotations. Only one existing (Frames 11 to 18)

NATIONAL COMPETITION

POSTCARD

Frame 232 - 232

Dr Alan Drysdall
Central South African
Railway's postcards

Postcards used by CSAR for official mail and picture postcards issued for publicity purposes.

Frame 233 - 237

Mr Barry Staggs
The Development and
Life Cycle of a Parachute

This exhibit shows the development of the modern parachute; its manufacture, and use. It also shows that the first parachutists were often entertainers and were not trained until the 1930s. It continues by considering the life cycle of a parachute, from dormant state, through birth, to gently floating downwards and, finally, collapsing on the ground.

POSTAL STATIONERY

Frame 238 - 242

Mr Ray Harris Nigeria
Aerogrammes 1948 to 2000

In late 1948 stamp imprinted air letters were introduced for overseas mail; in 1949 for internal airmail. The aerogrammes were redesigned from time to time to keep up with changing airmail rates and new designs of definitive stamps until the mid-1990s. Some proofs and varieties are included.

Frame 243 - 247

Mr Ghias Ahmad
Kingdom of Italy 1872 to 1929

This exhibit shows postcards during the region of Kingdom of Italy with different varieties, overprints on mint and used items, also includes Die proof, Essay, Specimen and used items from abroad.

TRADITIONAL PHILATELY

Frame 248 - 252

Mr Joseph Hackmey
Baden

The stamps and postal history of Baden with unused, used, rates and destinations and the error of colour.

Frame 253 - 257

Mr Joseph Hackmey
New South Wales

The stamps and postal history of New South Wales with unused, used, rates and destinations.

Frame 258 - 260

Don
Specimen stamps of Bechuanaland

This display illustrates the three different types of Specimen or Cancelled stamp produced initially for British Bechuanaland and later for the Bechuanaland Protectorate.

Frame 261 - 265

Mr Joseph Hackmey
Queensland

The stamps and postal history of Queensland with unused, used, rates and destinations.

Frame 266 - 270 Mr

Joseph Hackmey
Tasmania

The stamps and postal history of Tasmania with unused, used, rates and destinations.

Frame 271 - 273

Dr J. Stewart Templeton
India KGV Silver Jubilee 1935.
Use of the charity seal and
examples of the 'Support the
Jubilee Fund' cancel

This exhibit is wholly concerned with the Silver Jubilee in India of King George V and the history of the Silver Jubilee charity seal and fund with examples of the ½ Anna Seal and of the promotional cancels and their various post offices of origin in India, Burma and Aden.

Frame 274 - 277

Mr Robert Palmer
Photogravure Postage Stamps of
Romania 1922 - 1927

This display shows artwork, essays, proofs and trials associated with the photogravure issues made during the reign of King Ferdinand.

Frame 278 - 282

Mr Simon Richards
Dominica - its stamps and postal
history 1763 - 1933

A display of the stamps and postal history of the island of Dominica from the earliest cover through to the KGV twin medallion issue, with an emphasis on essays, proofs and trial material.

REVENUE PHILATELY

Frame 283 - 283

Mr Andrew McClellan
Syria: Coat of Arms Revenues
since 1949

An overview of the various types of post-Independence Syrian revenue adhesive featuring the coat of arms. Included are all fifteen recorded overprints on the original series, six of which were not listed in Duston's catalogue and are shown here for the first time.

Frame 284 - 284

Mr Andrew McClellan
Embossed Revenues of the
Cape of Good Hope and Natal

This exhibit shows the development of taxation in the Cape, beginning with the Dutch East India Company embossed stamps of 1714 and focusing particularly on the British issues of the 1820s-30s. The final sheets show the early issues for Natal from its colonial foundation in 1843 to the 1880s.

Frame 285 - 285

Mr Andrew McClellan
Ceylon Revenues 1848 - 1871

A detailed survey of all the sterling currency revenues of Ceylon, from the direct embossed issues of 1848 to the unissued Warehouse Warrant stamps prepared in 1871, plus essay and proof material for the decimal adhesives of 1872 including several unique items.

Postal History

Frame 286 - 286

Mr Peter Sondhelm
The Faroe Islands - stamp supplies
for inland letters during WWII

British forces occupied the Faroe Islands shortly after Germany invaded Denmark in April 1940. Despite this, Danish stamps remained in use in the Faroes throughout the WWII. The exhibit charts the story of stamps supplies and stamp usage for inland letters, also putting into context the wartime provisional stamps.

Frame 287 - 287

Dr Nicholas Amor
Genesis

Covers illustrate postal history in the six months from December 1839 to May 1840. Eleven are first day, one (1/6-) is last day, one (Mulready 1d. lettersheet) is pre-first day, another (Mulready 2d lettersheet) is first week and two (Houses of Parliament 1d. envelope and 2d Blue) are first month.

Frame 288 - 288

Mr Graham Booth
US Sailing packets -
freight money - 1838-45

In 1838 Steam ships started to charge 24 cents per sheet from New York to the UK. The US sailing packets then charged 12 1/2 cents. These payments would be made direct to the Postmaster at a limited number of US cities and for a short time at Canadian ones, and have traditionally been known as freight money.

Frame 289 - 289

Mr John Colton
The Undated Free Handstamps,
with Initials, from 1787 to 1792

A study of the three free handstamps used at the General Post Office, London, during the period including inks and franking officers concerned.

Frame 290 - 294

Mr Thomas Hoepfner
Postal History Hamburg

The development of the Stadtpost until 1867 This exhibit attempts to show the Hamburg Stadtpost over its approximate 300 years of existence until 1867 by means of outgoing, incoming and transit mail.

Frame 295 - 298

Mr Emmanuel Lebecque
German Etappen post in the
District of Valenciennes, 1914-1918

This exhibit presents the postal aspects of the German occupation during the four years of WW1. The focus is made on the District of Valenciennes in Northern France

where one of the three more important Line of Communication Inspectorates (Etappeninspektion) was located in the western front.

AEROPHILATELY

Frame 299 - 306

Dr Brian Callan

Graf Zeppelin DLZ-127 - The Postal Globetrotter 1928 - 1937

Exhibit details the early pioneering flights of the Graf Zeppelin airship followed by the establishment of the first Europe to South America commercial airmail service.

and cliff faces.

Frame 312 - 316

Mr Zeeshan Advani

***Revival to Golden Jubilee
journey of modern Olympic
Games (1894 - 1944)***

The exhibit describes the Revival to Golden Jubilee movements and historical events of modern Olympic Games through philatelic material.

Frame 317 - 321

Mr Roger Van Laere

Peruvian Prehistory

The cultural evolution of Peru from the appearance of the first inhabitants around 10,000 BC to the arrival of the Spanish in 1534.

Frame 323 - 330

Dr Jim Etherington

1940: A Desperate Year for Britain

This exhibit chronicles the wartime year of 1940 from a British perspective. Central themes that are developed include the military campaigns on land at sea and in the air, the impact of war on the country's civilian population and the role played by Britain's Empire in support of the 'Motherland'.

THEMATIC PHILATELY

Frame 307 - 311

Mr Barry Staggs

Parachuting through the Ages

This exhibit traces the history and development of the parachute to the modern day. The original concept of the parachute goes back to at least the 16th century and since then men and women have been pushing the limits of scientific knowledge by jumping from tall buildings, balloons and from aircraft before returning to its roots by jumping from buildings

Frame 322

Mrs Grace Davies

Alfred Nobel and his legacy

Alfred Nobel was a nineteenth century Swedish scientist, businessman and inventor who left a large fortune for the establishment of five prizes to be distributed annually for the benefit of mankind. They were to be for Chemistry, Physics, Physiology or Medicine, Literature and Peace. A sixth, for Economics, was added later.

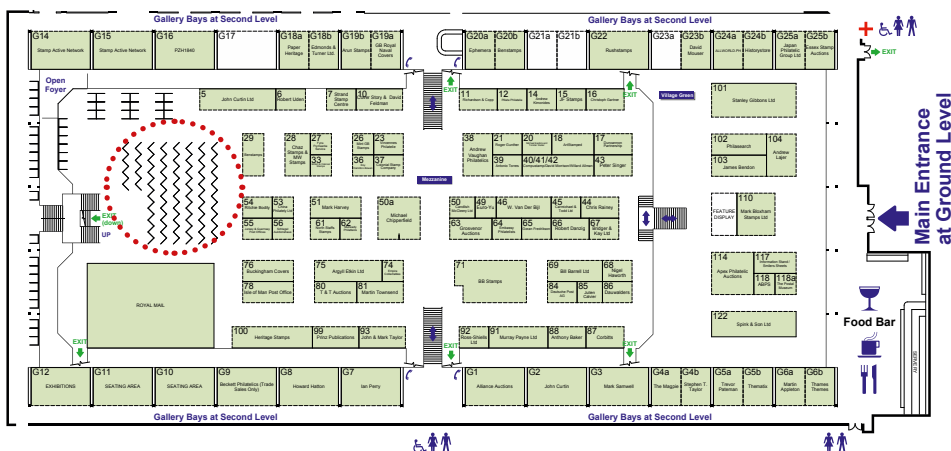
Stanley Gibbons

Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue

France, Andorra and Monaco 2015

This new Stanley Gibbons

Catalogue provides a comprehensive priced listing of all the stamps of France, Andorra (French and Spanish) and Monaco. The catalogue also covers the Council of Europe and UNESCO stamps as well as the Vichy Issues, Balloon Posts and Philatelic Documents.



The exhibition frames are located at the back of the hall, next to the Royal Mail stand

British Society of Russian Philately *British Journal of Russian Philately* Number 105

The British Journal of Russian Philately has been published annually since 1946 and was largely responsible for pioneering Russian philatelic research and knowledge in the English speaking world. Today the ongoing editorial quality and presentation is second to none.

Mr Bernard Mabbett *Ascension Island - The Post Office Accounts*

Information regarding the first two issues of Ascension stamps showing stocks sent to St Helena and then forwarded to Ascension. Monthly sales and final destruction figures. Most of this information was discovered during archival work on St Helena in 2013.

Stanley Gibbons *Stanley Gibbons Stamps of the World Catalogue, 2016 Edition*

Stamps of the World is a straightforward six-volume listing of all the world's stamps, from the Penny Black to the latest issues. Ignoring details such as the perforation, watermark and shade changes and concentrating just on the stamp's design, it is the perfect guide for the thematic and all-world collector.

Stanley Gibbons *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*

GSM is the UK's leading monthly consumer stamp magazine and caters for collectors of all levels and disciplines. It contains in-depth articles from leading authors in fields such as traditional philately, postal stationery, thematics, postal history and new issues. Each issue includes an update to the Stanley Gibbons Catalogue.

Stanley Gibbons *Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Specialised Catalogue Volume 2, 14th Edition*

The new 14th edition of the Specialised Catalogue for collectors of British stamps issued between 1902 and 1952 has a huge number of additions and improvements, including, for the first time, colour illustrations. New research, expanded listings and a complete revision of prices make this an indispensable reference work.

Stanley Gibbons *Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth and Empire Stamps - 1840 - 1970, 2016 Edition*

This catalogue is simply known by generations of collectors as 'Part 1'. The period covered is now 1840-1970 but the lack of new issues does not mean there are no new listings, with telegraph stamps, more 'used abroad' sections and many new varieties added in recent editions.

Stanley Gibbons *Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue, Belgium and Luxembourg*

This new Stanley Gibbons Catalogue provides a comprehensive priced listing of all the stamps of Belgium and Luxembourg. The catalogue also covers the stamps of Belgian Congo, Ruanda-Urundi and the German Occupation of Belgium.

Exhibitors will be presented with their awards following the Seminar ('Exhibiting Picture Postcards') on Saturday 20 February 2016 starting at 11am in the Executive Centre and followed by a buffet lunch with wine.

Tickets are £20 each and are available by contacting Deborah Gooch on e-mail exhibiting@abps.org.uk or by making an enquiry at the Organiser's Office.

To find out more about exhibiting your stamps visit the ABPS website: www.abps.org.uk



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If you'd like to have your collection featured in the 'Stamp showcase' article, contact editor Matt Hill at: matthewh@warnersgroup.co.uk

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Stamp Active Competition 2016

Once again the entries in the Stamp Active competition are on display in the Stamp Active area. As always the competition has been kindly sponsored by the Great Britain Philatelic Society, and the entries were judged by Christine Earle, John Davies and Richard West (the judging was hosted by The Royal Philatelic Society London).

Class A is for those aged 14 to 16

- 1 Joseph Likeman – Ships
- 2 Christopher Stuttard – Musical Instruments

Class B is for those aged 12 and 13

- 2 Rachel Hall – Ways of collecting stamps

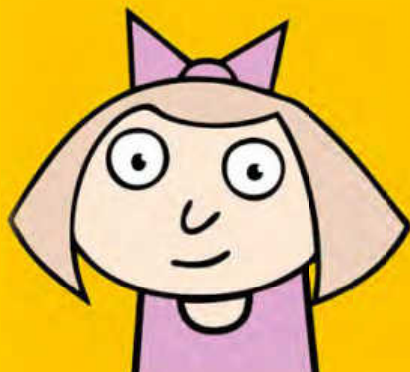
Class C is for those aged 10 and 11

- 3 Maisie Booth – Living Things in my Garden
- 5 Keely Davies – Touching Snow
- 3 Kylisha Fisher – Our Queen
- 4 Neil Foster – Development of British Military Aircraft
- 4 Daisy Jarvis – Ball games
- 5 Jack Jarvis – Vehicles
- 5 Anna Likeman – Cats and Dogs
- 8 Carys Llewellyn – Flags
- 6 Sara Llewellyn – Making Music
- 7 Abigail McPartlin – The World of Television
- 7 Morven Montgomery – The Stables
- 8 Oliver O’Riordan – World War II Battles 1939-45
- 8 Roxanne O’Toole – Butterflies and Insets
- 9 Nia Roberts – Birds
- 9 Alice Watson – Summer Time

Class D is for those aged up to 9

- 10 Ffion Llewellyn – Trains
- 10 Nia Llewellyn – Children’s Entertainment
- 10 Sarah Likeman – Flowers
- 11 Amy Morrison – On the Ice
- 11 Michael Starby – World Cup Championships

See the entries
at the **STAMP
ACTIVE** stand
on gallery bays
14 and 15



Stamp fun!

Find out about postmarks
and take part in fun activities
at the Stamp Active stand!



There are many different ways of cancelling stamps. These cancellations are called Postmarks and they can make interesting collections. On this page are some examples of British Postmarks, but foreign postmarks can be just as interesting.

These examples have been reduced in size so that more can be shown.



Examples of towns and cities

Large Parcel Post cancellations



Decorative postmarks

Don't miss the
FREE kids'
auction on
Saturday at 2pm
- you could win a
Penny Black!!



Some of the more interesting postmarks relate to the stamps that they cancel. On the left one of the stamps is a Welsh Black Bull, on the right the stamps are of a painting by Prince Charles of the Mountains of Mourne in Northern Ireland.

Enjoy more stamp activities at the **STAMP ACTIVE** stand on gallery bays 14 and 15, where you can also grab your 'Brilliant Britain' activity booklet, see young collectors' competition entries, and take part in the stamp auction on Saturday at 2pm! www.stampactive.co.uk





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